The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

October-November, 1984

Includes
FFA Awards & Programs
Special Insert

Inside This Issue: Learning from the Land
Ready to Lead

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The National
Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

October-November, 1984
Volume 33 Number 1 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

Declining enrollment in vocational agriculture should be a nationwide concern. Managing Editor Michael Wilson discusses the problem below.—Wilson Carnes

Many of you have signed up for another year of vocational agriculture classes. If you've noticed fewer classmates, you're not alone. Unfortunately, some chairs that were full last spring are now empty.

What is happening? Simply this: in our country's fervor to send education "back to basics," some high school students have discovered they are not able to take a vo-ag class, which is an "elective," and also take the classes necessary for college. Schools are clamping a lid down on some students by enforcing strict graduation requirements and piling on more "basic" science and math classes in order for students to enroll in a four-year college later on.

Trouble is, in the rush to get back to basics, many educators and elected officials have forgotten just how basic vocational agriculture is.

No one denies the benefits of more basic education in the sciences, math or English. But for college-bound FFA members, there should not have to be a choice between vo-ag and college-prep classes.

The larger question we must all face is this: what will happen to our nation's mighty agricultural industry when little priority is given to agricultural training in schools?

It stands to reason that if agriculture is to remain this country's number one industry, then vocational agriculture in secondary schools must be treated as an important starting point. Vo-ag can no longer be treated as just another elective, for very few elective high school classes have as much relevance to society as one which defines the very core of human existence: the basics of food and fiber production.

We stand to lose much more than just a few empty chairs in a vo-ag classroom.

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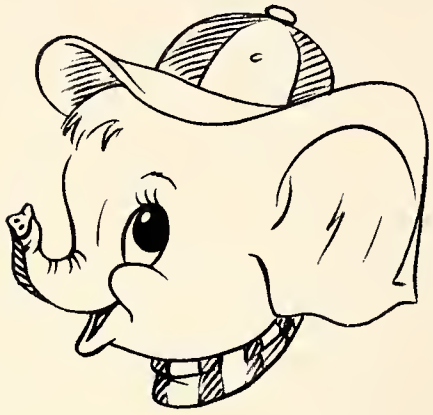

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The FFA

News in Brief

AWARD-WINNERS, START early: that's the advice from 1983 FFA award winners to younger FFA members. A study of regional FFA proficiency award winners reports 48.8 percent of these winning vo-ag students set goals to achieve in the FFA proficiency award program *as high school freshmen.* Statistics show 50 percent of the regional winners were high school graduates at the time they applied for the award.

MORE FFA MEMBERS plan to attend vocational/technical schools after graduation, according to a recent survey conducted by *The National FUTURE FARMER* advertising department. Over 75 percent of all FFA members plan to continue their education after high school. About 41 percent of these students plan to attend a voc-tech school, compared to 35 percent in 1982.

"MOVING TOWARD excellence in SOE/FFA" was the theme of the 1984 National SOE Workshop, held in Arlington, Virginia, this summer. The workshop drew over 200 vo-ag teachers, state staff members and teacher educators from across the country to exchange ideas and materials, solve problems and discuss ways to make SOE programs more effective. This was the second such national workshop conducted. Both were sponsored by DEKALB AgResearch, Inc., special projects of the National FFA Foundation.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO increase FFA membership? A new audio-visual show entitled "Be All You Can Dream," has been created to recruit potential FFA members. The show describes the importance of agriculture, opportunities available in vo-ag and the advantages of FFA leadership training, contests and award programs. The show, sponsored by The Wrangler Brand as a special project through the National FFA Foundation, is available for purchase as a 16mm film or videotape through the FFA Supply Service.

FFA LEADERS met at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, for the July board of directors meeting to discuss items of importance to FFA members. Here are a few highlights:

- The board approved an increase in registration fees for the upcoming National FFA Convention, from $10 to $12 per person.
- The board moved to recommend that a study be conducted for the development of an agribusiness test activity, which will measure competencies needed in salesmanship, job interviews, resume preparation and other skills. The project was referred to the board's research committee.
- The board reviewed and accepted new marketing and management activities for the revamped National Poultry and Dairy Foods Contests. The contests have been approved and will be instituted in 1985 if funded as special projects through the National FFA Foundation.

THE REVISED *FFA Student Handbook* is "one of the best resources an FFA member can have to learn more about getting involved in FFA," says Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor. The handbook is filled with full-color photos and packed with information and tips on leadership, awards and programs. For more information, see the new Official FFA Supply Service catalog.

NEW FFA FOUNDATION support: Apple Computer, Incorporated, Norfolk Southern Corporation and MSD AGVET Division, Merck & Co., have either begun or pledged more support for FFA through the National FFA Foundation.

Below, transportation and safety leaders from business and industry met at the National FFA Center in August to give input to FFA's "Special Emphasis" Safety Program on seatbelts and alcohol restraint.

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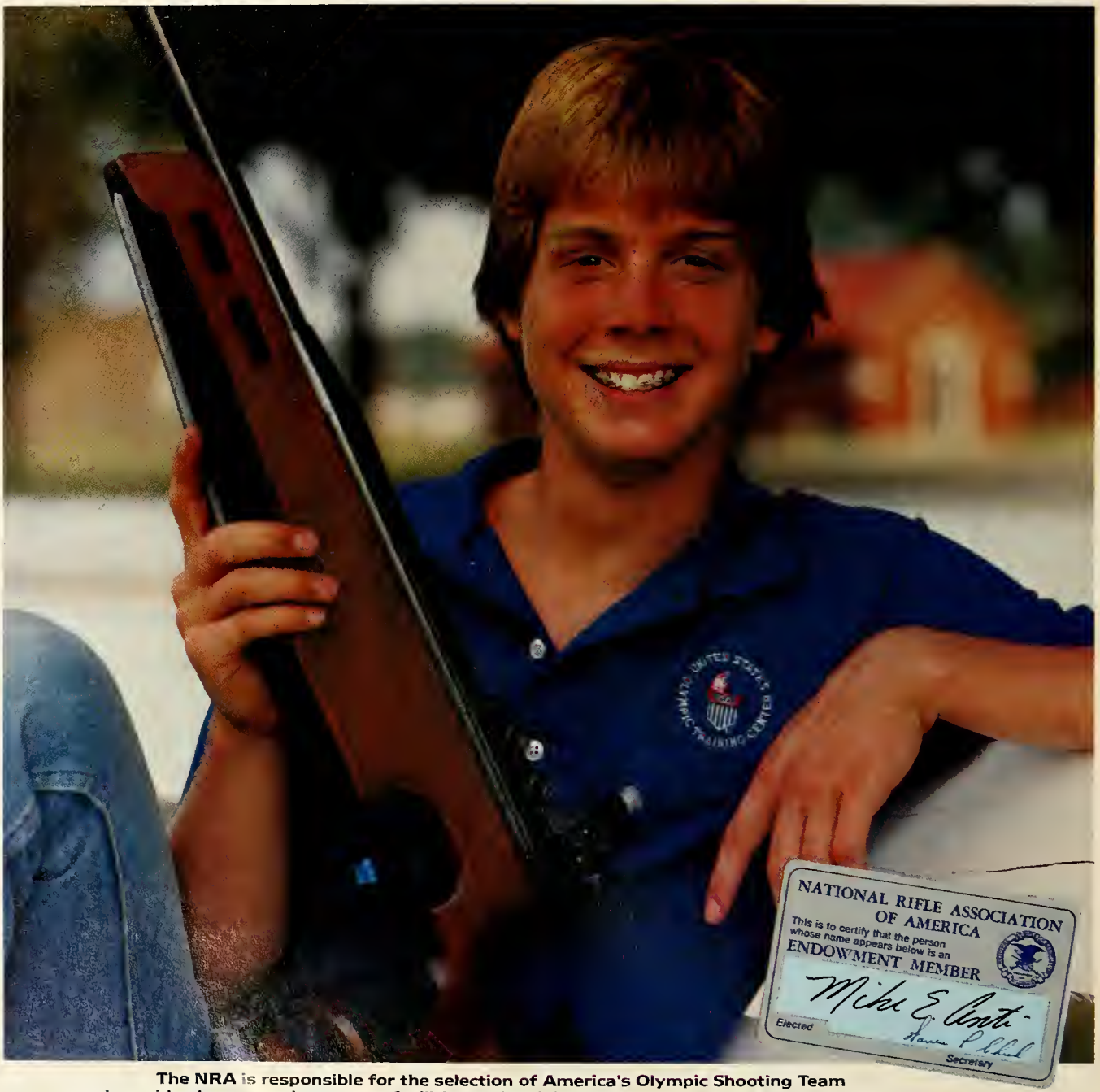
MIKE ANTI: Nineteen years old. International champion marksman, youngest member of the U.S. Rifle Team at the World Shooting Championships, Caracas, Venezuela. Endowment Member of the National Rifle Association.

"When I started shooting ten years ago, I could hardly hold up the rifle. I never imagined that someday I'd be competing in Europe and South America against some of the best athletes in the world.

"Of course, it's taken a lot of determination and sacrifice. To shoot well, you have to practice almost every day. Often a match is won by just a point or two out of a possible 1200.

"My dad signed me up as an NRA Life Member when I started shooting. The NRA does a lot to promote the shooting sports by sponsoring events and providing coaches. I went to the U.S. Olympic Training Center for NRA Junior Olympic Training programs. There's no way a kid could stay interested or be able to learn about shooting without NRA."

I'm the NRA.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The Mailbag

FFA Scholarships

I am currently enrolled in FFA and a junior at Charles H. Milby Senior High School. With not much time left of my high school days I have been seriously considering my future. I have decided I would like to go on to college and major in ag ed, to follow in my teacher's footsteps.

The only problem is my family doesn't have enough money to send me off to college and the local college isn't much in the agriculture field. If you know of any scholarships or loans or grants that may be available to me, I would appreciate any information you may be able to give me that would help. Thank you.

Colleen McAuliffe
Houston, Texas

There are currently many, many scholarships offered by the FFA through the National FFA Foundation. For a brochure and application forms, write Scholarship Committee, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. Deadline is January 1, 1985. —Ed.

Boosting membership

Much attention is focused on FFA membership, which has declined over the last few years. My home chapter has come up with a possible solution to our problem that may benefit chapters in other states. Our Food For America program is targeted at acquainting young children about where food comes from.

Each spring chapter members visit the elementary schools throughout the county and explain about food origins. We show them a slide presentation that deals with food production and sponsor a hayride along with a petting farm at our local land lab so the children can become better acquainted with agriculture and the FFA.

We also sponsor a coloring contest with the winner of each grade level receiving an invitation to our chapter banquet and a ribbon. We show FFA presentations to students in junior high.

The enthusiastic responses we have received from children and their parents alike assure us of greater membership in the future.

Janet Logsdon, Treasurer
Kentucky Association

Muchas gracias

On behalf of the National Association of the Future Farmers of Colombia (Futuros Agricultores de Colombia) we want to express sincere gratitude to the FFA Foundation and Asgrow Seed Company for the donation to our rural youth programs of 400 pounds of vegetable seeds.

The seeds were distributed to local F.A. de C. chapters and have been already planted. Very soon you will receive photos and reports on the pilot projects.

Thanks again for your valuable collaboration.

Jafeth Garcia Rojas
National Coordinator
Bogota, Colombia

Not complaining, but...

I think there should be fewer articles in *The National FUTURE FARMER* about people who have lots of land, animals and money. I have yet to read an article about a person who raises a few rabbits. Not everyone can afford to raise a cow for their FFA project. Surely there are some truly noteworthy people in this national organization who raise capons or turkeys, not heifers and steers!

These people are still FFA'ers though and should therefore be recognized.

Suzanne LoGalbo
Spring, Texas

This is my second year of being in the FFA. I love it but I have one small question. It seems like every agricultural-related success story with young people is that they're almost born into it. You read about someone who starts their own ranch and that's great. But then somewhere along in the story you read of his/her family who lives on a 500-acre ranch. And it just so happens that he/she owned their first calf at age four, which their father gave to them.

I'm not complaining about your stories. It's just that it would be a nice change to read about someone who starts out with absolutely nothing and no help from anyone. Then, after struggling, makes their dream come true. I'm beginning to wonder if there is such a person.

Janet Riley
Visalia, California

Sports fan

The August-September issue had an article on Bill Ruh and his Standardbred horses. I'm entering FFA for the third year with such a project. I congratulate you on giving some fame to this exciting sport.

I must, however, correct you on a mistake in one of your picture captions. The horse Bill was training was a pacer, not a trotter. Trotters do not wear hopples as part of their equipment while pacers do.

Amy Williams
West Mansfield, Ohio

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Kansas City, Here We Come!

Over 22,000 FFA members, vo-ag teachers, business and industry leaders will converge on Kansas City, Missouri for the 57th annual National FFA Convention, November 8-10, 1984.

The Convention will be organized and conducted by the 1984 National FFA Officer team. Official delegates will conduct business and make decisions affecting a fellow memership of 468,000 FFA members.

The Convention will be held under the new FFA theme, "Keep Agriculture #1—Support FFA and Vocational Agriculture." The theme was chosen in light of current challenges facing vocational agriculture and FFA.

The 1984 National FFA Convention will feature speeches from Sports Announcer Pat Summerall, Art Linkletter and Mamie McCullough.

For many FFA members, the convention gathering will be the culmination of hours working on speeches, applications and judging skills. Both the national Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest and National Prepared Public Speaking Contest will be held during the convention, as well as many national judging contests and proficiency award competitions.

FFA members will be treated to activities outside the convention halls, also. During the week, former national FFA officers will be conducting leadership workshops, sponsored by the FFA Alumni Association. Next door, the National Agricultural Career Show will feature hundreds of exhibits, allowing FFA'ers the chance to talk with representatives from agribusiness and higher education.

In addition, the prestigious Stars Over America Pageant will see two of FFA's highest honors awarded: Star Farmer of America, and Star Agribusinessman of America. For a profile of the candidates, see page 18.

If you plan to attend, see your chapter's registration brochure for housing information. Check the schedule on this page for more details. •••

1984 NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 3

8:30 a.m.	American Royal Parade Led by National FFA Officers

Wednesday, November 7

8 a.m.	Convention Registration
12:30 p.m.	Educational tours
1-5 p.m.	FFA Alumni convention
1:30-5 p.m.	National Agricultural Career Show, Bartle Hall
2 p.m.	Business Session
7:30 p.m.	Vespers program National Officers

Thursday, November 8

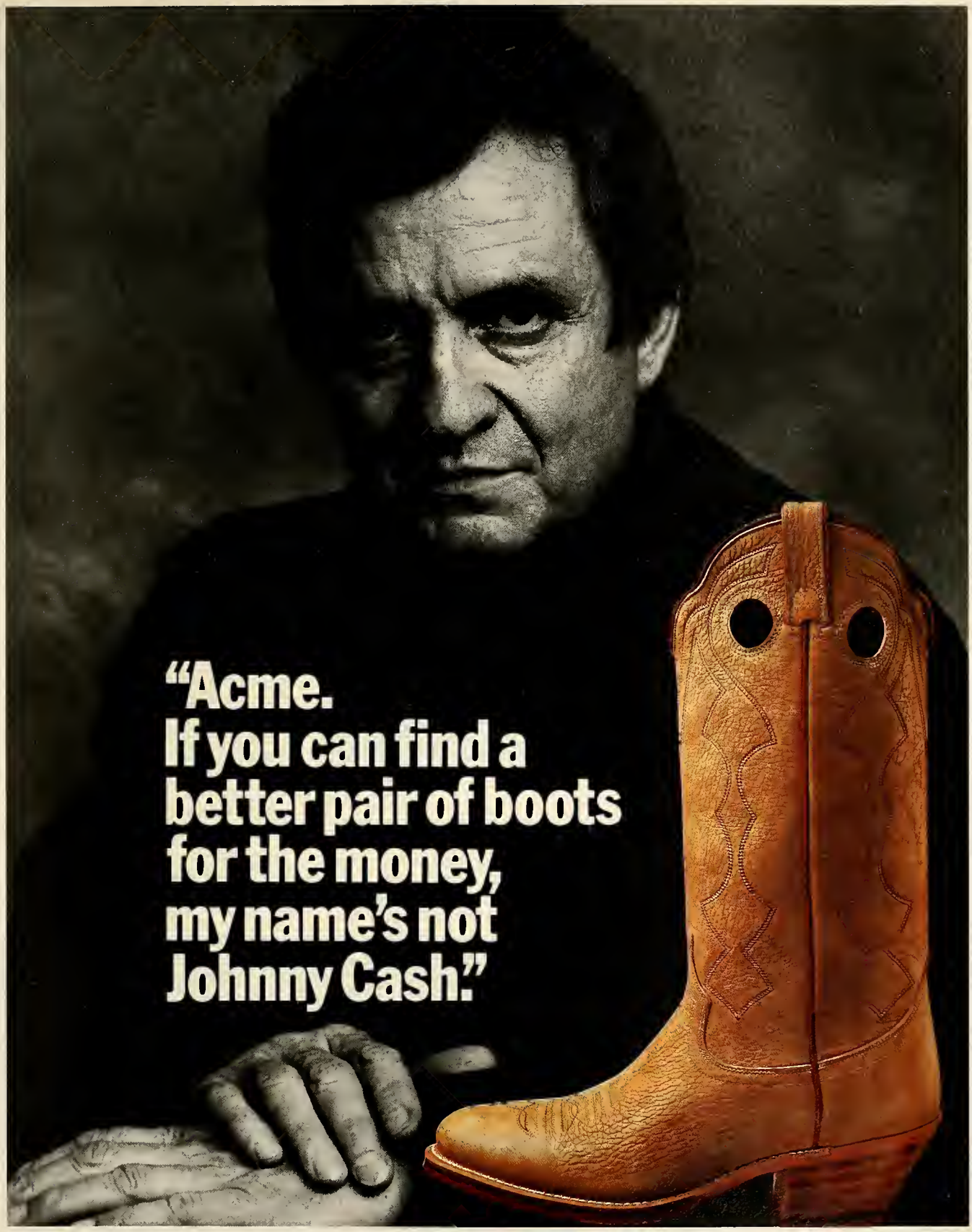
7 a.m.	Livestock Contest
8-8 p.m.	Convention Registration Nursery/Landscape Contests
8:30 a.m.	Floriculture, Milk Quality and Dairy Foods contests
9 a.m.	**Opening Session**-Premiere FFA Theme Show, Chapter Safety Awards **Special Guest Speaker: Pat Summeral**
Noon	Dairy Cattle Contest
12:30 p.m.	Agricultural Mechanics Contest
1 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop Speaker: John Pope
2 p.m.	**Second Session** Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest, Delegate Business Session **Special Guest Speaker: Art Linkletter**
3 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop Speaker: Randy Hedge
6:30 p.m.	National FFA Talent Show
8 p.m.	**Third Session** Sponsor Recognition, Stars Over America Pageant

Friday, November 9

8-6 p.m.	Convention Registration
8:30 a.m.	Poultry, Nursery/Landscape Contests
9 a.m.	**Fourth Session** VIP Awards, BOAC Awards
11 a.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop Speaker: Bobby Tucker
1 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop Speaker: David Pearce
2 p.m.	**Fifth Session** American Farmer Degrees, Alumni Recognition
3 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop Speaker: Elvin Caraway
7 p.m.	National FFA Band Concert
8 p.m.	**Sixth Session** National Proficiency Awards Pageant, Prepared Public Speaking Contest

Saturday, November 10

8 a.m.-12	Convention Registration
9 a.m.	**Seventh Session** International Activities, Announcement of Judging Contest Winners, Election of National Officers **Special Guest Speaker: Mamie McCullough**
1 p.m.	FFA Day at the American Royal Special Guest: Mickey Gilley
6:30 p.m.	The Best of FFA: A Musical Extravaganza Municipal Auditorium
8 p.m.	**Closing Session** Installation of new National Officers



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Right, Page County FFA'ers Sonny Cubbage and Gilbert Weaver check progress of the chapter's corn crop. Below, Keith Cubbage and Sharon Merica don goggles and protective masks to spray Christmas trees with insecticide.

Photos by Author

Above, vo-ag students appreciate shop and classroom work more after working on the land lab. Below, community supporters lend a hand during harvest. "From a teacher's standpoint, there's a little more work to the land lab," says Dan King. "But the motivation is worth it."

Learning

THE Page County vo-ag department has a most unusual laboratory.

It has no test tubes, beakers or Bunsen burners. No mad scientists, plotting the end of the world.

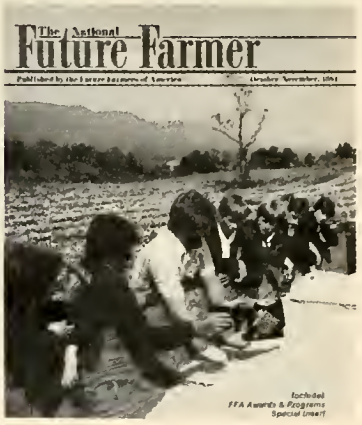
In fact, the only thing this laboratory may have in common with others is a secret formula.

For vo-ag students who use this scientific workshop, the formula is really no secret at all: it's "hands on" training for the future.

The laboratory is nothing less than a 35-acre plot of land managed by the school's vo-ag department under the direction of FFA Advisors Warren Brill and Mike Brown.

Page County High School, in Shenandoah, Virginia, is dwarfed by the majestic Blue Ridge mountains, a sight so riveting that the tiny piece of land found on the school's doorsteps might go overlooked.

COVER STORY



This FFA Chapter's "laboratory" helps students get hands-on training for future careers.

By Michael Wilson

From The Land

"The land lab isn't glamorous," says Mr. Brill, "but it is practical experience."

This year the school's laboratory features 13 acres of field corn, 18 acres of forestland, 3 acres of grassland and an acre of Christmas trees. The vo-ag instructors use the land to teach FFA members the basics of crop production, forestry and natural resource management.

From planting to harvesting, Page County FFA members begin to understand many aspects of production agriculture through the corn crop. With the help of local agribusinessmen, alumni and young farmers, students try their hand at everything from applying chemicals, taking grain moisture samples to testing soil acidity.

As Keith Cubbage, 17-year-old chapter president says, it's the kind of learning he can't get out of a textbook.

"You can't get this on-the-job experience anywhere, unless you are actually working on a farm or in a job," says Keith, who does not live on a farm. Keith wants to become involved in collegiate athletics after high school graduation. But he says farming may also be in his future, and by working in the field he can begin to make some decisions.

New Forestry Skills

"I've definitely been able to apply some of the things I've learned at the lab to forestry judging contests," Keith says.

Former Page County FFA Advisor Dan King says, "Our county is about 43 percent forestland. A lot of it is not managed effectively. At Page County, the students have the opportunity to learn clear-cutting, site preparation, reforestation, bulldozing, and the proper way to burn off brush."

Mr. King taught vocational agriculture at Page County since 1980, before changing careers last year. He says there are several land labs in Virginia. But up until 1982, the Page County lab was just another piece of land.

"Basically, it hadn't been cropped for seven years," he explains. "It was unproductive land, and we had to get involved in reclaiming it."

The Page County vo-ag department, FFA and Young Farmers organizations got an okay from the Page County School Board to use the acreage. Ag teachers, FFA members, farmers and local businessman set to work, preparing the land for productivity.

"A soil test was taken by FFA members in March of 1982 to determine fertilizer requirements," says Mr. King. Valley Fertilizer, a local company, applied the fertilizer and herbicides. Seed corn was supplied by Glenn Dale Foltz, a local farmer and Pioneer dealer, and planted by FFA members with Mr. Foltz's equipment.

KING: "The biggest benefit is the feeling of confidence that a lot of students feel when they're a part of something successful."

Mr. Foltz has continued to supply the chapter with equipment and Pioneer seed corn. This year the chapter planted a test plot with 15 seed varieties.

Mr. Brill says the land lab could not be successful without this kind of volunteer community support. "The young farmers are interested people who have some capacity in farming," he says. "They are interested in making the ag program better. To a certain extent, that makes my job easier, as far as getting the work done."

Mr. King adds, "The role of ag teacher is to coordinate the support—bringing human resources together."

The local Farm Bureau provides a good example, says Mr. King, by donating chemicals for the corn field this year. "A farmer may put in his order at Farm Bureau and tell those folks about what we need," says Mr. King. "Pretty soon we'll get a call in to the vo-ag department, asking 'How much do you need?'"

Work Experience

To the students, the hands-on training means work experience. That means a better chance at future jobs and future careers. Even the students with farm experience benefit from the school's lab.

"We take time to figure out the "whys" behind production and natural resource management," says Mr. King. "We'll go out and disk a field and then come back to the classroom and figure the mechanical aspects like, 'Why do we operate this job at this gear?'"

The experience outside the classroom helps students understand more *in* the classroom, says Mr. King. "From a teacher's standpoint, there's a little more work to the land lab. But the motivation is worth it."

It's even more important to Page County students who don't have farm backgrounds.

"About 50 percent of our students come from small towns and don't live on farms," says Mr. King. "A lot of them want that farm experience.

"It helps them decide, 'Is this what I really want to do with my life?'

"The biggest benefit is the feeling of confidence that a lot of kids feel when they're a part of something successful. A lot of the things we do in FFA fall into that category."

And those mad scientists, plotting the end of the world? They're just enthusiastic FFA members, plotting next year's crop production schedule, identifying trees, taking soil samples...

And learning from the land. •••

WCP: Opening Doors To The Future

More than just a workshop on FFA and leadership, the Washington Conference Program is a crash course in people, with a special emphasis on friendship and the future.

By Michael Wilson

SOME very good things happened in Washington, D.C. this summer.

You might immediately think it was a big speech on Capitol Hill, or a rousing political gathering. But the good things mentioned here have little to do with this country's elected officials.

I speak now of future leaders; leaders for the next decade, the next century, the next generation. Your generation.

Here in the shadows of the city's monuments to past heroes, 1,500 FFA members jumped off buses, trains and planes for a chance to become better leaders and citizens by attending the FFA's Washington Conference Program (WCP). The conference is held each summer in the nation's capital for all FFA members.

Some arrived fresh off the farm. A few traveled for days on a beat up old yellow school bus. Some gave up the county fair.

In most cases, those who attended the conference were glad they did. More than a workshop on FFA and leadership, they said. It was a crash course in people, with a special emphasis on friendship; an open door to the future, with a chance to develop leadership potential.

To understand what happens at the FFA's WCP conference each week for eight humid, summery weeks, one must visualize certain things. Picture in your mind about 100 or more keyed-up FFA members arriving all at one time at a big-city hotel.

It's Monday. Some are homesick, some are shy. Nobody knows anybody.

Picture the same band of teenagers four days later, and the portrait changes dramatically.

In less than a week, you will see a group (more often than not) bright and bubbling with enthusiasm for FFA, their country, their agricultural background. Now, these students work together to hold an FFA banquet with precision and pride; discover teamwork; challenge themselves to goals that, one week earlier, seemed only pipe dreams.

In a few short days, some have developed closer friendships with these "strangers," than with any classmates back home. They will visit each other's homes and they will keep in touch with each other for years, all because of this bond formed at WCP.

New Goals

Perhaps an easier way to describe WCP is through the eyes of 16-year-old Eric Sherwood, of East Buchanan, Missouri. There were two WCP conferences held simultaneously this summer. Eric attended one of them.

"I had heard how good it was from the people who went last year," says Eric. "It was everything I expected. Probably more."

"The conference doesn't give all people the same kind of inspiration. But it does give everyone some degree of courage and personal confidence that will carry them in different directions beyond FFA."

Eric says he worried that the conference might be "boring like other workshops I've been to." Instead, he says, "The counselors made it so you could relate to them and learn while you had a good time. We did a lot of neat things."

The conference helped Eric modify his goals. "At first, I had a goal to be a state officer," he says. "Now I'm considering working as hard as I can to become state president someday. Maybe even a national officer."

A common goal of the conference is to help vo-ag students learn more about FFA, leadership and citizenship. But while students learn basics of communication, etiquette, social skills, patriotism and FFA activities, they also gain confidence by meeting others.

"The big thing for me was getting to know the people," says Eric. "I learned about how state and other chapters work, and a little bit about the different ways people live all over the country."

Another former participant adds, "The conference doesn't give all people the same kind of inspiration. But it does give everyone some degree of courage and personal confidence that will carry them in different directions beyond FFA."

Eric says, "One new goal I set was to become a leadership counselor at WCP. Those people were so great to me, I want to give back something to them, the same way they are giving to the organization."

Indeed, much of the success behind WCP can be directly credited to the counselor staff, usually made up of past national officers and top-notch former state FFA officers. Most are in their early 20s, and relate to students well. WCP Counselors are known for their speaking and motivating abilities, and can develop a rapport with many students within just a few minutes.

Mark Herndon and John Pope, both former national officers, served as conference directors this summer. "Because of the nature of the program, the students are together from their very first session," Mark says. "They're encouraged to get to know all the other participants.

"The counselor role is somewhat like a big brother or big sister role," he adds. "One of the things that encouraged me when I came to the conference as a student, was the way the counselors could talk to me on a personal basis.

"I went in 1976," says Mark. "It's still one of the most significant experiences in my life. I went at a time when I was really questioning which way my life would go. But when I saw other people whom I really respected and admired, pursuing goals and just having a blast living—that's what made the difference and challenged me to set goals for myself."

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Right, two FFA members enjoy visiting on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. this summer. "The big thing for me was getting to know the people," said one WCP participant.

Above, President Reagan receives Blue and Gold Award.

Capital Opportunities

By John Dutcher

A NEW crop of FFA state officers descended upon Washington, D.C., July 22-27 during the annual State Presidents' Conference, for intense training and motivation to help them meet their goals as state FFA leaders.

"This week in Washington is not only an opportunity for each of us to grow personally, but also a chance for all of us, together, to tackle the challenges in education and agriculture," said National FFA President Ron Wineinger. Ron, along with fellow national officers Bill Caraway, Rhonda Scheulen, Chuck Duggar, Melody Lawson and Carol Irvine, helped plan and conduct the week's activities.

The state officers learned more about national FFA operations and programs in informal sessions throughout the week. The group visited the National FFA Center to tour facilities, meet staff, and attend the premiere showing of "Be All You Can Dream," a new theme show audio-visual aimed at increasing vocational agriculture enrollment.

At a White House Rose Garden visit, President Reagan praised FFA for giving a fine start to young people. "By cultivating traditional values, leadership skills and patriotism, the Future Farmers of America insure strength and vitality in our country," he said.

The National FFA Officers presented the President with FFA's Blue and Gold Award after his speech.

Conference participants also met Secretary of Agriculture John Block and visited many of the national monuments in the area. The conference was sponsored by Chevrolet.

The Congressional Luncheon, where FFA leaders met elected officials from their home districts, was another conference highlight. Ron Wineinger told FFA members, U.S. Congressmen and Senators that "Vo-ag students/FFA members are not the problem, but the solution, to instability in agriculture and unrest in vocational education.

"It would seem vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America are at the crossroads of two sensitive issues," he said. He referred to unstable economic conditions for young farmers and agribusinessmen, as well as current attempts at educational reforms in vocational agriculture.

He went on to cite examples of how vocational agriculture and FFA teach the same basic competencies vocational education opponents say the program lacks. He closed by asking elected officials in the crowd to take care making decisions effecting people caught between sensitive issues.

Ron seemed to sum up the feelings of all the newly-elected FFA leaders when he told the luncheon audience that, "Never before has there been such hope for agriculture in this nation or any nation." •••

Mark A. McKay

John B. Kline

Larry O. Nielson

Steven B. Rogers

Profile of the Stars

What's it take to be the best? Here's a close-up of the FFA stars of 1984. Two of these FFA members will soon be awarded FFA's highest honor: Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

FROM a field of nearly 700 American Farmer degree candidates, eight FFA members have been selected Star American Farmers and Agribusinessmen of their respective regions. Each are just one step away from being named to FFA's highest honor, Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

Each star receives $1,000 from the National FFA Foundation at the 57the National FFA Convention, November 8-10, in Kansas City, Missouri. The final winners will receive an additional $1,000.

The following is a *brief summary* of the stars' Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) programs, FFA activities and future plans.

Western Region Star Farmer
Mark A. McKay, 20 St. Paul, Oregon

SOE: Mark started with three acres of cauliflower, and has added bush beans, cauliflower, broccoli, radish seed and wheat on 125 acres. He has a 50 percent share of the crops with his brother. He is also in partnership with his brother in a custom spraying operation.

FFA: Chapter vice president.

Future Plans: Mark wants to gradually assume control of the family farm.

Eastern Region Star Farmer
John B. Kline, 21 Myerstown, Pennsylvania

SOE: John's program started with one Holstein heifer and four veal calves. He has built a herd of 59 heifers through his SOE, in addition to raising 70 acres of corn and 35 acres of alfalfa. He uses embryo transfer to increase herd quality and a computer to analyze feed rations.

FFA: Chapter reporter and vice president. 1982 Dairy Production Proficiency award winner from the eastern region.

Future Plans: Wants to continue improving the quality of registered cows in his operation.

Central Region Star Farmer
Larry O. Nielson, 21 Tulare, South Dakota

SOE: His program started with 145 feeder pigs. Today he owns a 800-acre diversified dryland and irrigated farm where he raises corn, soybeans, barley, wheat, alfalfa, beef and swine. He keeps his farm efficient by using a computerized farm record system, constantly checking soil fertility and moisture in addition to maintaining an extensive health program.

FFA: 1981 South Dakota FFA president. Won six state proficiency awards and was a state extemporaneous public speaking contest winner.

Future Plans: Wants to increase efficiency in his operation and get more involved in local community organizations.

Southern Region Star Farmer
Steven B. Rogers, 21 Speedwell, Tennessee

SOE: His program started with one registered Holstein cow. At 17 he petitioned the courts to have his status changed to adult, so he could secure a loan from the Farmers Home Administration to purchase his own farm. Today he owns and operates a 133-head dairy farm and also raises

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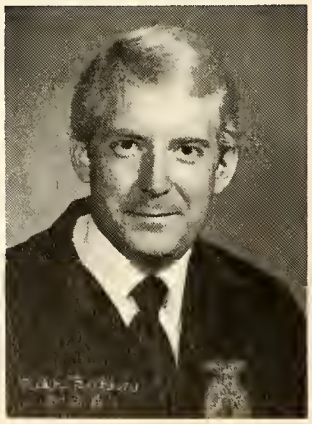
Carolyn Sue Martin

Michael Fuhler



Rex Alan Wichert

Michael Anderson

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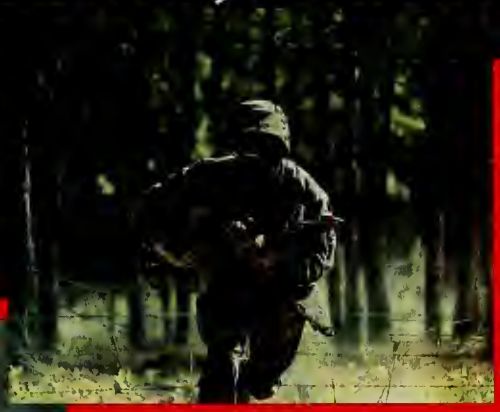

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Stars

(Continued from Page 18)

silage, hay, and burley tobacco.

FFA: Chapter secretary and sentinel; showed and judged dairy. 1981 Star Farmer of East Tennessee.

Future Plans: Wants to increase the efficiency of his farming operation with computer technology.

Star Agribusinessman of the Southern Region
Carolyn Sue Martin, 21 Baxter, Tennessee

SOE: Carolyn built her program around work in her family's sawmill and three acres of tobacco. Today, she raises 12 acres of tobacco and works 36 hours per week in her family's sawmill. At the sawmill, her primary responsibility is sharpening sawblades.

Carolyn is the first female in FFA history to be selected a regional star.

FFA: Chapter treasurer, current president of her collegiate FFA chapter.

Future Plans: Wants to finish work on her Agricultural Engineering degree at the Tennessee Technological University. After graduation, she plans to become a certified grader of lumber and a partner in the family business.

Star Agribusinessman of the Central Region
Michael Fuhler, 20 Trenton, Illinois

SOE: He started as a bookkeeper in the Trenton Cooperative Equity Exchange. Within three years, he moved up to office manager and fertilizer specialist. He developed a perpetual inventory system and helped establish a computer record system at the cooperative.

FFA: Chapter president, received the state foundation award in small grain production.

Future Plans: His goal is to someday become manager of the cooperative.

Star Agribusinessman of the Western Region
Rex Alan Wichert, 20 Fairview, Oklahoma

SOE: Rex started his program with a few head of livestock and 20 acres of crops. Today, he has 85 beef cattle and is farming 107 acres of wheat and grassland. He operates a lucrative custom hay-baling business on the side. He has worked as a part-time electrician, farm laborer and agricultural mechanic.

FFA: Chapter parliamentarian and treasurer.

Future Plans: Wants to finish his double major in ag economics and agronomy at the Oklahoma State University. Upon graduation he hopes to become a crop consultant and carry on research work.

Star Agribusinessman of the Eastern Region
Mark Anderson, 21 East Berlin, Pennsylvania

SOE: He worked summers and after school to save money to buy stock in GVM Incorporated, a family fertilizer business. His responsibilities in the business started with sweeping floors. Through his SOE, he has raised himself to overseeing custom building and designing liquid fertilizer systems.

FFA: Chapter secretary and reporter.

Future Plans: Wants to stay in the family business as a sales representative and continue his education by attending trade meetings and workshops. •••

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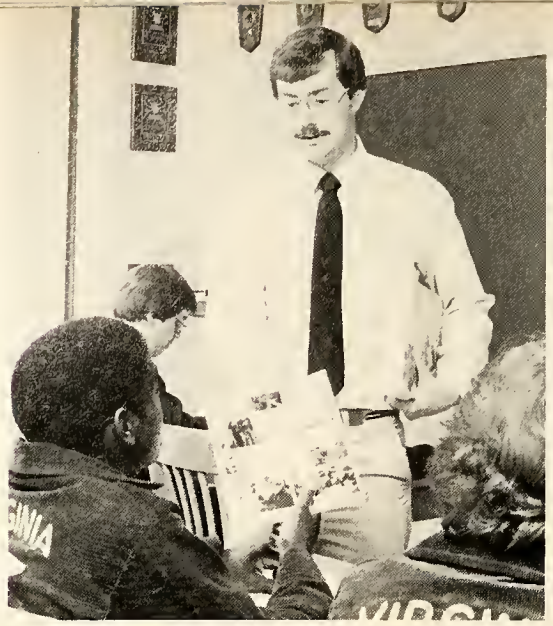

Left, Doug Rinker, former national FFA officer, now teaches vocational agriculture in his home town of Winchester, Virginia. Below, Mr. Rinker spends many Saturdays and late afternoons visiting students.

Photo by Author

Hometown Boy Makes Good

For many people, success means the bright lights of a big city. Meet a former National FFA President who found success a little closer to home.

By John Dutcher

It's an old cliche: Hometown boy makes good and returns to help the community. Had job offers in the big city, but turned them down.

"I think I have something to pay back to this community. It's done an awful lot for me," says Doug Rinker, 25.

Mr. Rinker is one of those hometown boys who "made good." But there's nothing cliche about what he's doing for his community.

He traveled across America in 1979 as National FFA President. He visited huge agricultural corporations; he felt the lure of their power. Yet he chose to return home to Winchester, Virginia, for the one opportunity he thought most important—teaching vocational agriculture at James Wood High School.

"I was a national officer for a year," says Mr. Rinker. "But I'm an individual for the rest of my life. I'm doing something that I'm happy with."

Mr. Rinker's definition of happy includes being able to travel over the hills and expanses of the Winchester area in his beige pickup for student SOE visits. You don't have to go on many Saturday and after-school trips with him to see why he teaches vo-ag. Knowing and helping students seems to be his addiction.

Brian Cather, 17, is one of Mr. Rinker's students. He seems to embody those qualities ag teachers might hope for in all their students: scholarship, career motivation, common sense and a willingness to work.

Brian is president of the chapter, and hitting the books pretty hard to get into the pre-vet program at Virginia Tech (Mr. Rinker's alma mater). He also works part-time for a local veterinarian.

"Are you saving some of your paychecks for college?" Mr. Rinker asks Brian. The formality of their classroom relationship tossed to the wind, it's hard to tell they're teacher and student. You can sense the respect two friends have for each other.

"Let's face it, making lesson plans, working on reports, degree and award applications is probably about the most boring thing you could ever do. But what's exciting is that your work involves students," says Mr. Rinker.

RINKER: "Let's face it, making lesson plans, working on reports, degree and award applications is probably about the most boring thing you could ever do. But what's exciting is that your work involves students."

With over 300 vo-ag students, the five-teacher department at James Wood, headed by Mr. Hylton Clark, has its hands full. The program includes horticulture, ag production, business and machinery.

Having four other teachers to share responsibilities and act as a support network is one of the best things about teaching at James Wood, says Mr. Rinker.

"It's really amazing to see the kind of attitude they (the other teachers) have," he says. "It's almost like a check and balance system. When one of us is frustrated or overloaded, we'll talk about it and find a way to work it out."

An Ag Teacher First

Each teacher spends only one class period per month on FFA work. "I was hired to be an ag teacher first and an FFA advisor second," Mr. Rinker says.

This means the bulk of FFA work and SOE visits takes place after hours. At times it can be a drain on a young teacher—especially one with a young family. Mr. Rinker and his wife, Katie, recently bought his home place and have started a family with Amanda Catherine, a new-born daughter.

"A lot of people are scared off from teaching ag because they know that the first few years they'll be working 60-70 hours per week," says Mr. Rinker, who has taught vo-ag for a year and a half.

He admits the days are long and he's not going to get rich off an ag teacher's salary. Yet, he says he's happy just to be working with students.

"No one has a right to complain about students," he says. "Students can be motivated and led to become something. They're not the cause of our work, they're the reason for it."

That simple philosophy may explain why Mr. Rinker enjoys teaching ag today. He's contributing to his community by helping students prepare for and plan their futures. For him, some things in life have their own rewards.

"Sometimes we're torn because people expect so much from ag teachers, says Mr. Rinker. "That's the challenging part. It's a challenge I like." •••

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Homegrown Means

BIRD in Hand is a tiny town in Lancaster County, the heart of Pennsylvania's Amish country. It's surrounded with hills, farmland and Amish people producing crops and livestock in plain, old-fashioned ways.

The Amish are renown for their homegrown produce, home-baked goods and country crafts. It's easy to believe everything is fresh off the farm, hot out of the oven and made by hand. Vacationers love the area.

But not *everyone* who tries their hand at the area's tourist business is Amish. Merv Keagy, 19, of Washington Boro, Pennsylvania, has expanded his family's produce business—thanks to tourism, and a solid vocational agriculture background.

In May, Merv, a partner with his parents in Keagy Produce, opened a new fruit and vegetable stand at the Bird in Hand Market, a veritable tourist shopping center. The market has just about everything: plants, fresh baked goods, meats, cheese, crafts, spices and preserves—all with a uniquely Amish flavor.

Before Merv moved in, the market lacked a good produce stand, one that could supply the kind of homegrown produce visitors expected.

"People who come here on trips want

Photos by Author

Above, Merv Keagy, 19, of Washington Boro, Pennsylvania, inspects an acre of peppers his family raises to supply their produce business. Top right, bright red radishes add color to an otherwise green display of produce. Bottom right, Merv cuts and wraps watermelons for his customers.

Profit

By John Dutcher

to take something back from Lancaster County," says Merv. "If tourists live in Florida, they don't come up here to buy *Florida* tomatoes."

Merv has mastered the art of growing, buying and marketing fresh local produce. He also travels to wholesale terminals in Philadelphia and Baltimore to buy out-of-season fruits and vegetables, which help make his stand a mouthwatering sight. The bright red radishes with dewey green tops on his stand are trucked in from Ohio. The giant cantaloupes hail from South Carolina.

KEAGY: "People who come here on trips want to take something back from Lancaster County. If tourists live in Florida, they don't come here to buy Florida tomatoes."

"I learned everything I know about produce from my dad," says Merv. His Supervised Occupational Experience program in the Penn-Manor FFA chapter encouraged him to become more involved in the business and work toward its expansion.

In high school, Merv tailored his studies to business and agriculture. He took all the accounting and bookkeeping offered and developed "a good head for figures," says FFA Advisor August Birchler.

Merv's head for figures helped him take on more responsibility as he climbed the business ladder. He started out as a salesclerk, selling produce and working in the family's fields, which supply much of their stock. Today, he manages Keagy's Bird in Hand produce stand—proof positive that Merv has the skills necessary to help run his own business.

Merv says he's learned a lot from developing a new market. In the stand's early days, he paid close attention to his customers and found out what they liked and disliked. He also learned how to control inventory and cash flow.

As a result, the Bird in Hand stand is now one of the businesses' biggest moneymakers. On an average Saturday during tourist season, the stand takes in around $1,200, partly because Merv's prices are 10-20 percent below retail.

Pretty Means Profit

"Most of our customers are used to seeing produce in cellophane bags," says Merv. Because his produce is sold unwrapped, much care must be taken in its preparation.

"There are so many things you must do to catch the consumer's eye," he says. Celery bottoms are cut to a point, then washed, forming a neat bunch for the customer. Most items on the stand go through equally time-consuming rituals to be made as attractive as possible.

Once the fruits and vegetables are prepared for sale, Merv pays close attention to their placement on the counter. Red radishes are strategically located between green lettuce and onions to break up the colors. He also gives the customer a good selection by displaying large quantities of each item.

Merv likes to answer his customers' questions about what is in season, how long it it will stay in season and where fruits and vegetables are grown. "You've got to *know* produce to succeed in this business," he says.

Homegrown

Since "homegrown" is the catchword for profit in Lancaster County, the Keagys raise as much of their own produce as possible. They grow 25 acres of vegetables, mostly tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, beans, zucchini squash and cantaloupes, all planted in staggered rotation to assure a steady supply for the business.

Jet Star tomatoes are clearly Merv's pride and joy. The Jet Star has come to be known as the "Washington Boro" tomato due to its popularity in the area. Merv's five-acre tomato crop doesn't sound like much until you consider it will net nearly $14,000 in over-the-counter sales this year.

White sweet corn is another important crop for Merv. This season marks his first attempt to sell the ten-acre crop entirely through the family's produce stands. "Tomatoes and sweet corn pay the bills," he says. "They're what we count on."

Merv says most tourists have never seen white sweet corn, so next year he'll plant a few acres of yellow corn to see how it sells. Merv admits it probably won't move too well at the other stands, which have fewer tourists, but as he says: "You've got to give customers what they want."

That kind of attitude helped earn Merv the state FFA Agricultural Sales and Service proficiency award sponsored by Allis-Chalmers Corporation.

Merv has plans beyond the next tourist season. He wants to expand the family operation and continue establishing good credit as a partner in the business.

But for Merv, the real measure of success will always be in satisfying his customers.

"You must admit, nowhere else but Lancaster County do you see produce that looks as good as this," said one little old lady to a fellow tourist.

Merv knows his customers have big expectations of his produce. It's a business where there is no tomorrow for a slightly wilted head of lettuce—or a businessman who doesn't know his market. •••

Below, a customer looks over Merv's offering of fresh fruit.

The Marshall Plan

Above, Tom and Bart Marshall at the Marshall's Suffolk sheep farm in Michigan.

Photos By Author

Question: What do FFA, Suffolk sheep and boogie-woogie ragtime piano have in common? Answer: Meet the Marshalls, of Allen, Michigan, a most unique—and successful—farm family.

By Michael Wilson

I had to admit, this was no ordinary FFA interview.

Here I was, sitting in the comfortable rec room of A. LeJean and Jane Marshall. These fine folks not only fed me and gave me a warm place to stay; now they were entertaining me. Before me were the Marshall's three sons: Dave, 14, on saxophone, Bart, 19, on drums, and 21-year-old Tom, tearing up the keyboards on ragtime piano.

I was treated to a fine performance. I concluded that the brothers' hearty enthusiasm for music echoed the entire family's zeal for the farm's main enterprise: producing and marketing registered Suffolk sheep.

The Marshalls live on a neatly manicured farm outside of tiny Allen, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall take pride in their sons' musical and theatrical talents (Tom has performed at the National FFA Talent show, and the family "trio" has performed in several places).

When it comes to raising sheep, though, the Marshalls are all business. Over the last five to ten years, the family has carried out a plan to establish a national reputation as top-notch registered breeders. They've accomplished their goal through superior genetics: good breeding practices combined with experimental uses of embryo transfer and artificial insemination. The results: sheep with more heighth, length and all-around better breed characteristics.

Today, the family operates one of the largest registered Suffolk sheep farms in the country. "We're the only full-time registered breeders in Michingan who make our income solely off of breeding and selling Suffolks," explains Tom. The Marshall flock is made up of 650 breeding ewes, 150 yearling ewes and 50 yearling rams. The family crops 650 acres in forward-contracted corn, and oats and alfalfa.

Mr. Marshall is recognized internationally for his expertise

in the sheep business. At home he receives phone calls from fellow sheep breeders asking his advice on veterinarian problems. When he is on the road promoting the Marshall flock, Tom, Bart and Dave take care of the farm.

Tom and Bart are partly responsible for the family's involvement in the sheep industry today. Mr. Marshall had been in the sheep business 40 years ago before selling his flock to Michigan State University. He switched to dairy, gradually building a 375-cow milking enterprise by the early 70s. But when the boys came along and showed an interest in sheep, Mr. Marshall began selling cows.

"The last few years, we've been converting everything from cows to sheep on this farm," says Tom. "We haven't yet figured out how to use the milking parlor, but that's next!"

"The last few years, we've been converting everything from cows to sheep on this farm. We haven't yet figured out how to use the milking parlor, but that's next!"

One encouraging event in the family's re-entry to the business happened in 1978. The Marshalls decided to attend the prestigious "Midwest Stud Ram Sale" in Sedalia, Missouri,

Above, Bart Marshall checks in with his dad LeJean, before heading off for an FFA function as state president.

an event which annually attracts big-name sheep breeders. It was their first showing.

"When we pulled up, we saw all these big-time breeders with their long trailers," says Tom. "Here we were, pulling up in this little brown pickup truck. It was exciting."

Little did they know how exciting the sale would actually be. The Marshalls ended up selling a ewe for $37,000—at the time, the world-record for a registered Suffolk ewe.

Establishing Markets

Through annual sales, promotions and consignments, the Marshall family has determined the best ways to sell their sheep. "We managed to establish a market in Canada over the last five years," says Bart. "We hold a club lamb sale and we sell 150 bred ewes at an annual Christmas sale that has been going on six years. Last year we averaged almost $600 per ewe."

Tom adds, "Every year, our average price has gone up. The Canadian market helped us a lot. They have been trying to get bigger Suffolks with better breed characteristics."

Mr. Marshall says the stiff competition among Suffolk breeders makes it tough to keep up with ever-changing breed standards.

"Four years ago a 36-inch tall ram was considered big," he says. "Now, we're looking at 39 or 40-inch rams."

Tom explains, "It's all because of the way the Suffolk is bred. The lambs have 'hybrid vigor.' Their rate of gain is unsurpassed."

Excellence Through Genetics

The Marshalls are not afraid to experiment. Bart and Tom say they are anxious to use new genetic techniques. "It's the wave of the future," says Bart. "It's the one thing the cattle and pork industry have seen progress in, but not in sheep. It's relatively unexplored, because no one has come up with any decent conception rates."

"With embryo transfer, you can get the maximum production out of a ewe that could normally only produce one or two lambs per season," says Tom.

Tom is learning more about genetics as he enters his second year at Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology, in Canada. With Bart doing double-duty as an MSU freshman and state FFA president, the Marshalls are spread out pretty thin. Even so, the family still remains strong.

"One of the reasons I think Tom and Bart are so successful is that their whole sheep business is really a family affair," says Charles Snyder, the brothers' FFA advisor from Quincy, Michigan. "They've been involved in FFA, music and plays at school, and whenever there is an activity all the grandparents, aunts, uncles will attend also."

"Before we were in vo-ag, we were just a pair of kids showing livestock," says Tom. "We got into FFA and Mr. Snyder took us around and got us into leadership activities. He showed us how to relate to the public."

Mr. Snyder, gesturing toward 14-year-old Dave, smiles. "We're not finished yet, either," he says. •••

Above, Tom and Bart spend hours clipping, carding and washing sheep for shows and sales. Below, the two brothers show off one of the Marshall's prize rams.

Computer Whiz

FFA's first "Computers in Agriculture" award winner is announced at a national computer seminar for Future Farmers

KEVIN Gingerich, of the Northwestern, Indiana, FFA chapter, was named the FFA's first winner of the new Computers in Agriculture award.

The announcement came during a national Computers in Agriculture seminar, held August 14-18 in Washington, D.C. The conference was sponsored by AgriData Resources, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

During the week, 37 state-winning FFA members demonstrated their ag computer skills before a panel of six education and industry experts during the week. Students were judged on their ability to adapt their SOE program to computer technology, ability to identify areas of agriculture and agribusiness which could benefit from computers, and how to apply computer knowledge to solve problems in management.

In all, over 150 FFA members, vo-ag instructors, educators and computer industry leaders attended or made presentations on computer applications in agriculture.

Kevin topped all other computer experts with a program on grain marketing. "It allows farmers in my area to find the most economical way to market grain," says Kevin. His program allows producers to consider factors like grain moisture, test weight and discount price schedules from local grain outlets. "Net returns are calculated by using all factors," he says, "and a farmer can find out exactly where to sell that particular grain for the most money."

Rounding out the top five were Debra Haack, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Dotty Behne, Sherburn, Minnesota; Barry Hines, Philpot, Kentucky; and Lonnie Webb, of Lincoln, Arkansas.

Above, National FFA Advisor Larry Case, left, and Richard Weening, president of AgriData Resources, Inc., right, present Kevin Gingerich, of Kokomo, Indiana, with first place in FFA's new Computers in Agriculture award.

Dr. Blannie Bowen, professor at Mississippi State University, acted as a judge for the contest. He says he was impressed with the applications.

"Most students were making application of data bases, electronic spreadsheets and writing programs on how to keep better records," says Dr. Bowen.

"The one thing I was most impressed with was how many of these FFA members were actually developing skills that would help their vo-ag teacher manage the vo-ag program, such as computerized FFA membership rosters, or shop inventories," he says.

In true FFA form, students had a chance to get "hands on" experience by talking with experts and testing computers from Texas Instruments, Radio Shack and Apple Computer.

Each student came with different experiences with computers. All agreed there are advantages to using computers in agriculture.

"It helps make farmers more efficient," says Barry Hines, of Kentucky. "You look at the way the economy is today and how tight farmers have to be, with the right software a farmer can account for every penny."

Computer Curiosity

Many of the vo-ag students said their interest in computers grew from a spark of curiosity. Dean Tobey, of Corunna, Michigan, says, "After I took a computer class I found I liked it quite a bit. Now I've decided that's what I'm going to study in college."

Dean, who prefers computer programming, says those interested in computers need imagination and an urge to try new things. "And patience, when things don't go right," he smiles.

Kevin Gingerich says, "I hadn't been interested in computers too much in high school. But my ag teacher invited me to attend a computer class he was teaching when I was a junior. Before I knew it, I was writing programs. By the end of the year I was his assistant."

Kevin recently entered college, majoring in Computer Science. "After I graduate, I would like to apply my computer skills and my agricultural background to work with a company that develops software to help farmers."

Below, FFA members at the seminar gained "hands on" experience at different types of computers.

Computerizing The Classroom

FFA Steps Into The Electronic World

VOCATIONAL agriculture and the FFA took a giant step into the electronic world with the September start of the first national "on-line" computer network for agriculture classrooms.

The "Ag Ed Network," a partnership project of the FFA and AgriData Resources, Inc., is a computer database aimed specifically at high school and junior colleges teaching vocational agriculture. The network provides vo-ag instructors and students with learning "modules," supported by up-to-the-minute agricultural business and marketing information.

In addition, the National FFA Organization provides FFA information, such as reference materials and handbooks, and an FFA news service which provides announcements on upcoming events and programs, award winners and human interest stories, from local, state and national levels.

Vo-ag departments which use the system can now order FFA materials and supplies electronically from the National FFA Supply Service. Users are able to communicate with each other through an "Idea Exchange," much like a computerized bulletin board.

AgriData Resources, Inc. also operates AgriData Network, a national electronic business information, communications

(Continued on Page 50)

YOU WIND UP WISHING IT WERE MORE THAN ONE WEEKEND A MONTH.

You might find yourself in a chopper, cruising the treetops at 90 miles per hour.

Or doing something more down to earth, like repairing an electronic circuit.

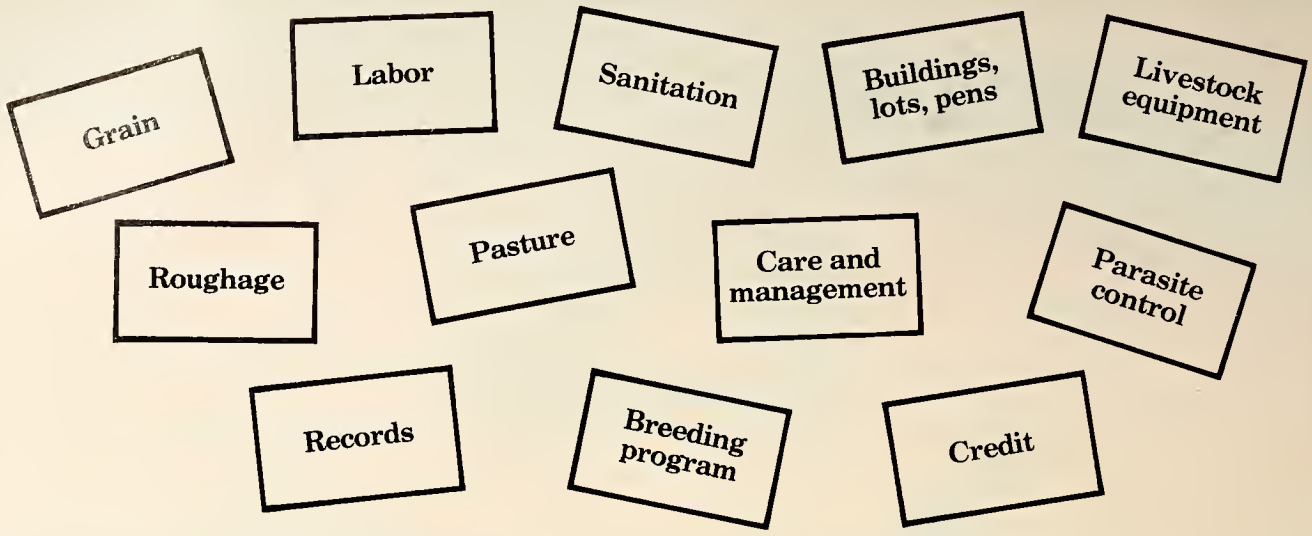
What you won't find yourself doing is getting bored. Because this isn't ordinary part-time work. It's the Army Reserve.

You'll spend your junior and senior summers in training, learning one of hundreds of valuable skills.

Then one weekend a month, you'll put that training to use at a Reserve center close to home, all the while receiving good pay and benefits.

But maybe most importantly, you'll come away with a feeling deep down that you were challenged and came through. And that doesn't disappear when Monday rolls around. See your local Army Reserve recruiter today. Or call toll free 1-800-USA-ARMY.

ARMY RESERVE.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.



They must fit together for a sound, profitable livestock operation

How does the MoorMan Representative help?

Through personal on-farm counseling with livestock producers, the MoorMan Representative helps fit the pieces together to help the farmer or rancher get top performance, low total feed costs and maximum profits.

By calling direct, our representative can see the livestock, equipment and facilities, find out what native feedstuffs are available, determine the owner's preferred feeding methods and goals for the livestock enterprise or enterprises.

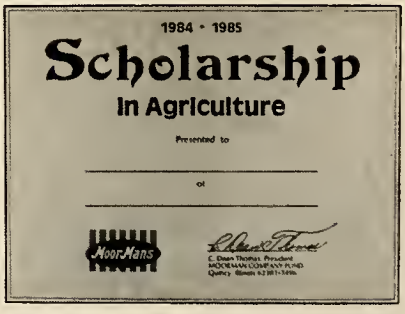
As a result, our representative is able to recommend specific products and feeding programs to fill the owner's needs.

Each MoorMan Representative has reference materials on various classes of livestock, detailed feeding and management programs and educational films—and is ready and willing to show them to you.

Three ways the Moorman Manufacturing Company encourages young people interested in agriculture:

Since 1958, MoorMan's contributions have helped honor outstanding FFA members at the chapter, state, regional and national levels.

Also since 1958, MoorMan's contributions have helped honor outstanding 4-H Club members at all levels—county, state and national.



Since 1959, MoorMan's has sponsored scholarships at agricultural colleges. They're being awarded this year to students at 29 Land-Grant universities.

WHERE WILL YOU BE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY?

1984-85 FFA Awards & Programs Special Insert

Funded by sponsors through
the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Be All That You Can Dream . . .

In about fifteen years we will enter the twenty-first century. What a milestone! And you will be there, working away at your life, doing a job you're proud of. *You are* history in the making!

Stop and think for a minute. Do you know what you want to do in the twenty-first century?

There is one career path you can choose which assures your place in the next century, because it is based on a simple fact: people will eat.

The industry? Agriculture. The opportunity? Unlimited!

The next century is still years in the future. But you have a chance today to get some hands-on experience at earning a living, making decisions and being a leader. You have the chance today to challenge yourself and test your potential.

You can do all this and more by getting involved in vocational agriculture and FFA.

Vocational agriculture offers students hands-on learning through Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) programs. SOE gives work experience and job skills—skills that tomorrow's agriculture is counting on.

FFA awards and programs motivate and encourage you to greater achievements. You can earn pins for your jacket, trophies, plaques, advanced degrees and cash awards. Through FFA you can travel, make new friends and have some fun. All these opportunities help build confidence in your abilities *and* yourself.

This special insert will show you how to get involved. By starting today, your future can and will be all that you can dream!

FFA Awards and Programs

Agriculture has changed dramatically since the FFA was founded in 1928. So have FFA awards and programs.

Today, thousands of members participate in FFA contests at the local, state and national levels. Nearly all members are involved in some phase of the FFA degree program. Some apply the latest technology to their SOE programs. Such agricultural trends are mirrored in new FFA proficiency award areas.

These changes reflect a constant need to meet new demands in the agriculture industry. FFA programs are carried out to teach skills the agricultural marketplace demands of its future workers, managers and professionals. That's you!

Whatever your talent, whatever your background, your first goal is to get involved in one or more of the following awards, contests or programs.

Through the FFA you can establish who you are. You can begin to shape the twenty-first century!

If your Chapter Resource System file is not yet available, refer to the Official FFA Manual or new Student Handbook for more information. If information on a particular award or program is not available, have your advisor order the free materials through the Official FFA Catalog.

Individual Awards and Programs

Proficiency Awards

The proficiency award program challenges you to do what American agriculture has always done so well—produce and manage efficiently. If you win a proficiency award at the chapter level, you'll receive a special certificate and award pin for your FFA jacket, plus a chance to advance to district, section or sub-regional levels of competition. State award winners receive a plaque, cash award and a chance to go on to regional and national levels. Winning a national proficiency award includes an all-expense-paid travel seminar to Europe with other FFA members, in addition to a cash award and plaque given at the National FFA Convention.

*Awards are given based on good management, safety, finance, animal health and nutrition and labor practices. Accurate records are essential for success in the proficiency award program.

*For more information on the following proficiency awards, refer to the Agricultural Proficiency Handbook and the proficiency award applications (divider #1.00 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Agricultural Electrification
Sponsored by: National Food and Energy Council, Incorporated
Klein Tools, Incorporated
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Wiring, energy management, sales and service of agricultural power units or electric motors.

Agricultural Mechanics
Sponsored by: International Harvester Company
- Selection, repair and maintenance of agricultural equipment; design and construction of agricultural equipment structures.

Agricultural Processing
Sponsored by: FFA Foundation General Fund
- Assembling, transporting, grading, inspecting, processing, fabricating, mixing manufacturing and marketing food and non-food agricultural products.

Agricultural Sales and/or Service
Sponsored by: Allis-Chalmers Corporation
- Work in feed, seed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, machinery and other farm supply stores, custom work, equipment operation and maintenance, agricultural management and finance services, animal breeding, horse shoeing and pet services.

Beef Production
Sponsored by: Nasco Division/International, Incorporated
Sperry New Holland
- Cow-calf and finishing operations for all beef breeds.

Cereal Grain Production
Sponsored by: Du Pont Agricultural Chemicals
- Cereal grain crops such as wheat, rye and rice.

Dairy Production
Sponsored by: AVCO New Idea
The De Laval Agricultural Division of Alfa-Laval, Inc.
American Breeders Service
- Dairy cattle of all breeds and milk products.

Diversified Crop Production
Sponsored by: Cargill, Incorporated
- Two or more types of crops such as feed grain, oil, forage, cereal or fiber.

Diversified Livestock Production
Sponsored by: A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Incorporated
Wayne Feeds Division/Continental Grain Company
- Two or more livestock enterprises such as beef, sheep, swine, dairy or horses.

Feed Grain Production
Sponsored by: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
- Feed grains such as barley, millet, buckwheat, oats, corn and grain sorghum.

Fiber Crop Production
Sponsored by: The Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated
Valmont Industries, Incorporated
- Fiber crops such as cotton, sisal and hemp.

Floriculture
Sponsored by: The Lerio Corporation
Nursery Supplies, Inc.
The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Flowers, foliage and related plant materials for ornamental purposes, arranging and packaging products.

Forage Crop Production
Sponsored by: Hesston Corporation
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Alfalfa, clover, bromegrass, corn and grass silages, all sorghum except grain and other grain forages.

Forest Management
Sponsored by: Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Forestry practices that conserve and increase productivity and economic value of forestland such as thinning, pruning, weeding, planting, insect/disease control and harvesting; seasonal tree farming.

Fruit and/or Vegetable Production
Sponsored by: Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Incorporated
- Edible beans, all canned vegetables, potatoes and yams, stone, pome and citrus fruits, nuts and common garden vegetables.

Home and/or Farmstead Improvement
Sponsored by: Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow, Cobb, and O's Gold, Agricultural Division of the Upjohn Company

- Improving home or farmstead to provide a more desirable place to live and work.

Horse Proficiency
Sponsored by: American Quarter Horse Association

- Production or management of horses of all breeds.

Nursery Operations
Sponsored by: Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

- Turf, plants, shrubs and trees for transplanting or propagation.

Oil Crop Production
Sponsored by: The Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated
Ring Around Products, Incorporated

- Oil crops such as flax, mustard, rape, castor beans, sunflowers, peanuts, safflower and soybeans.

Outdoor Recreation
Sponsored by: FFA Foundation General Fund

- Building vacation cabins, camping/picnic areas, sports fields, riding stables and developing hunting preserves, water/winter sports areas, vacation farms or guest ranches.

Placement in Agricultural Production
Sponsored by: Claas of America, Inc.
CIBA-Geigy, Inc.

- Work placement in a phase of agricultural production other than the applicant's home farm.

Poultry Production
Sponsored by: Kentucky Fried Chicken of Oklahoma
Red Brand fence/made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company
Chore-Time Equipment, Inc.
FFA Foundation General Fund

- Broiler and layer production, egg production, turkey production and poultry management.

Sheep Production
Sponsored by: Carnation Company—Milling Division
American Sheep Producers Council, Inc./Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc.
FFA Foundation General Fund

- Sheep of all breeds and wool.

Soil and Water Management
Sponsored by: Ford Motor Company Fund

- Preventing erosion, improving soil productivity, promoting efficient use of water and reducing pollution.

Specialty Animal Production
Sponsored by: FFA Foundation General Fund

- Bees, domestic fowl, goats, rabbits, mink, fish, worms and wildlife such as ducks and pheasants.

Specialty Crop Production
Sponsored by: R. J. Reynolds Industries, Incorporated

- Sugar beets, tobacco, popcorn, all grass seed production, spearmint oil and hops.

Swine Production
Sponsored by: Pfizer Incorporated/Agricultural Division

- Swine of all breeds and their products.

Turf and Landscape Management
Sponsored by: O. M. Scott & Sons

- Locating, planting and maintaining turf, plants and shrubs or devices to beautify home grounds for habitation or recreation.

Wildlife Management
Sponsored by: Philip Morris Incorporated

- Improving wildlife resources and habitats for beauty and ecological purposes; includes stocking fish, wild game and habitat improvement.

Public Speaking Contests

You can conquer your fear of public speaking by getting involved in speaking contests.

- For more information on speaking contests refer to Rules and Regulations for National Contests (Bulletin #4) or check the appropriate file divider in the Chapter Resource System File. (divider #'s 1.09 and 1.12 respectively).

Extemporaneous Public Speaking
Sponsored by: American Farm Bureau Federation

- Activities include giving a speech on one of three different topics. You have 30 minutes to prepare notes before giving the speech. Afterwards you will be questioned for five minutes by a panel of judges. Contestants are judged on speech delivery and knowledge of your subject.

Prepared Public Speaking
Sponsored by: FMC Foundation

- Activities include giving a six- to eight-minute speech before a panel of judges and answering questions for up to five minutes afterwards. Contestants are judged on quality of their written manuscript, delivery of speech and knowledge of subject.

FFA Degree Recognition

American Farmer Degree Recognition
Sponsored by: J I Case, A Tenneco Company
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Incorporated
The Nation's Production Credit Associations
The Nation's Federal Land Banks
NA-CHURS Plant Food Company

- The Greenhand degree, the first degree available, is earned after an FFA member shows an understanding of FFA and its history. You must also develop a satisfactory SOE program through vocational agriculture class.
- After you have improved your SOE program and leadership skills, you can advance to the Chapter Farmer degree and then on to the State Farmer degree. Approximately three percent of all FFA members in your state will receive the State Farmer degree this year.
- After you have received your State Farmer degree, you can apply for the American Farmer degree. The American Farmer degree is one of the FFA's highest honors. Only about one in every 600 FFA members ever receive the degree. To do this, you must be highly proficient in your SOE program and participate in many community, school and FFA activities.

- For more information, refer to the degree applications (dividers #1.05–1.08) and the American Farmer Degree Handbook (divider #1.08 in the Chapter Resource System File).

FFA Stars Program

Sponsored on the local and state level by:
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
Sponsored on the national level by:
Executive Sponsors of the National FFA Foundation
National Stars Over America Audio-Visual
Sponsored by:
Levi Strauss & Company

- A Star Greenhand, Chapter Farmer and Agribusinessman are selected annually at the chapter level for excellence in SOE programs, leadership and FFA involvement. These award winners are eligible to advance to sectional, district or regional competition within the state.
- Your state selects a Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman from State Farmer degree recipients. These FFA members are selected based on achievement in FFA and their SOE programs in agribusiness and production agriculture.
- Stars at the regional and national levels are selected from American Farmer degree recipients from across the nation. The Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America receive a $2,000 check and an opportunity to represent FFA at many vocational agriculture functions.
- For more information about the FFA Stars Program check the appropriate files in the Chapter Resource System File (dividers #1.05–1.08).

FFA Achievement Award

Sponsored by: *Successful Farming*

- You and your advisor make up the requirements for this award.
- You can be recognized for agricultural skills, leadership development, career understanding or safety practices.
- You'll receive a special certificate from the National FFA Foundation for participating in this program.
- For more information, refer to the Achievement Award Program Handbook (divider #1.01 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Computers in Agriculture

Sponsored by: AgriData Resources, Inc.

- Recognizes FFA members who have been innovative in using computer technology in agricultural production and agribusiness management.
- Chapters select a member who shows the most productive use of computers in his or her SOE program. The winner receives a certificate and goes on to compete at the state level. State winners receive a certificate.
- Judging is based on your ability to identify areas of agriculture which will benefit from computer technology, select software most applicable to your chapter and SOE program, and/or how a computer is used to make management decisions.
- For more information refer to the Computers in Agriculture program booklet (divider #1.03 in the Chapter Resource System File).

National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent

Sponsored by:
Band: Carnation Company
Chorus: Hallmark Cards, Incorporated
FFA Foundation General Fund
Talent: FFA Foundation General Fund

Band, chorus and talent programs encourage FFA members to let their talents shine. If you have special abilities, you can be an important asset to many FFA functions at the local, state and national levels.

- Most state FFA associations have band, chorus and talent groups entertain at conventions. Your advisor can give you application forms for these activities.
- You can perform your talent on stage at the National FFA Convention. Ask your advisor to contact your state FFA office for an application. Return it with an audition tape for band and chorus. National talent acts audition in Kansas City prior to the National FFA Convention.

International Programs

- Work Experience Abroad (WEA) programs are available for FFA members and FFA alumni to just about everywhere in the world. Leave home for three, six or twelve months and get fantastic work experience living with farm families while working in an agricultural area that interests you.
- Scholarships are available in many states to help cover travel expenses. These are given through grants from the U.S. Information Agency and National FFA Foundation sponsors. These scholarships are sponsored by the following companies:
  - Iowa Corn Promotion Board
  - Jerome Foundation
  - MSD AGVET Division, Merck & Co., Inc.
  - Mobay Chemical Corporation
  - Nissan USA (Datsun)
  - Oregon Seed Trade Association
  - Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc./Central Division
  - Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc./Eastern Division
  - Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc./Wisconsin Division
  - K. T. Wiedemann Foundation, Incorporated
  - Yanmar Diesel America Corporation
- Have your advisor contact your state FFA office for more information on scholarships in your state.

Applications are due several months prior to departure dates, so apply early.

- Another way to experience international agriculture is to host an international work experience participant from another country.
- For more information on international programs, refer to the WEA International Program Handbook and WEA application (divider #2.08 in the Chapter Resource System File).

First Interstate Bank of California
First Mississippi Corporation Foundation
Georgia Power Company
Gerber Baby Foods Fund
Harder Silo Company, Incorporated
Idaho First National Bank
Idaho Wheat Commission
Illinois Farmers Union
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Inland Container Corporation Foundation
McCurdy Seed Company
Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council
Mississippi Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
National Oats Company, Incorporated
Nissan USA (Datsun)
The Ohio Farmers Grain and Supply Association
Oregon Wheat Commission
Pacific Seedsmen's Association
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
Prairie Farms Dairy, Incorporated
Professional Products, Incorporated
South Dakota Farmers Union
South Dakota Wheat Commission
Texas Farmers Union
United States Sugar Corporation
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
Wells Fargo Bank
Western Seedsmen's Association
Wyoming Wheat Commission

- Have your FFA advisor contact the state FFA office for more information on these scholarships. Applications are due June 1 each year. For more information on the conference, refer to the Washington Conference Program Application (divider #2.11 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Washington Conference Program

The Washington Conference Program (WCP) gives FFA members leadership skills through a series of personal development workshops held in Washington, D.C. each summer.

- Special emphasis is placed on obtaining new ideas for chapter action. Participants develop a greater appreciation of our nation's heritage by visiting Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, historical monuments and congressmen on Capitol Hill.
- Scholarships are available in selected states through the National FFA Foundation. Sponsors of these scholarships are:

AGRI Industries
American Beauty Macaroni Company/Division of the Pillsbury Company
Beacon Feed Service
Chevron U.S.A. Incorporated
Chief Industries, Incorporated/Agricultural Division
Colorado National Bank of Denver
The Commonwealth National Bank
Contel Service Corporation
Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel, Incorporated
Farm Credit Services

National FFA Scholarship Program

- Scholarships for members wishing to enroll in a two-year vocational/technical school, junior college or four-year university majoring in agriculture. These are available from $500 to "full-ride" scholarships, made possible by sponsors through the National FFA Foundation. These sponsors are:

TSC Farm, Home and Auto Stores
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc.
Blount Foundation
Church & Dwight Company, Inc.
Dunavant Enterprises, Incorporated
Esmark, Inc. Foundation/Swift/Hunt-Wesson Food, Inc.
Firestone Agricultural Mechanics
Louis Dreyfus Corporation
A. O. Smith Harvestore, Inc. (Harold Davis Memorial)
Farmland Industries, Inc. (Ellen Nielsen Cooperative Scholarship Fund)
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Purina Field 'N Farm "Agri-Future"
Santa Fe Industries, Incorporated
Who's Who Among American High School Students

- For more information and an application, refer to divider #1.11 in the Chapter Resource System File.

Chapter Awards and Programs

FFA also means teamwork. The following programs give your chapter an opportunity to participate and be recognized for achievement.

FFA Contests

FFA contests give you a chance to use skills learned in vocational agriculture. Although other contests are offered in certain parts of the country, the following are offered in most states and at the national level.

- Your chapter can earn a plaque at the state level and on the national level for teams which place Gold, Silver or Bronze. Team members ranked as top individuals will receive a medal on the national level. The top five individuals will receive trophies. The top chapter team receives a national trophy.
- For more information on FFA contests, refer to the Rules and Regulations for National Contests (Bulletin #4) or divider #1.09 in the Chapter Resource System File.

Agricultural Mechanics
Sponsored by: Firestone Trust Fund
- Activities include skill activities, written examinations and problem-solving in agriculture power, machinery, structures, electrification, construction, and soil and water practices.

Dairy
Sponsored by: Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated
- Activities include placing dairy cattle based on type and linear classification and giving oral reasons. You must also place a class of four based on pedigree information.

Dairy Foods
Sponsored by: Patz Company
Mid-America Dairymen, Incorporated
- Activities include visual and taste testing of milk and cheese. Milk samples are evaluated with the California Mastitis Test. You are tested on principles of merchandising dairy foods.

Farm Business Management
Sponsored by: John Deere Foundation
- Activities include testing your ability to apply economic principles in analyzing farm businesses. You must analyze and complete a total farm budget and apply economic principles to solve farm problems.

Floriculture
Sponsored by: FFA Foundation General Fund
- Activities include judging and identifying floriculture products. You are given a written examination on growing media, plant disorders and anatomy. You are evaluated on your ability to make floral arrangements, pot chrysanthemum cuttings and take orders over the phone.

Forestry
Sponsored by: Homelite Division of Textron, Inc.
Hammermill Paper Company
Temple-Eastex Incorporated
- Activities include testing ability to develop a forest and wood products management and marketing plan. You must take a forestry inventory, identify forest disorders and conduct silvicultural practices.

Livestock
Sponsored by: Ralston Purina Company
- Activities include placing classes of market and breeding beef, sheep and swine and giving oral reasons. You must show ability to select breeding livestock by evaluating production records.

Meats
Sponsored by: Geo. A. Hormel & Company
Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Activities include identifying wholesale and retail cuts of meat and judging beef, pork and lamb carcasses. You must show ability to select and identify highest quality carcasses, wholesale and retail cuts of meat.

Nursery/Landscape
Sponsored by: Kubota Tractor Corporation
American Association of Nurserymen
Wholesale Nursery Growers of America Inc.
FFA Foundation General Fund
- Activities include judging landscapes, identifying nursery products and a practicum involving a landscape plan. Your knowledge of plant anatomy, growing media is tested. You must show ability to diagnose plant disorders.

Poultry
Sponsored by: Hubbard Farms, Incorporated
Victor F. Weaver Incorporated
- Activities include evaluating poultry products. You must also take a written exam to test your knowledge of management practices.

National Chapter Award Program

Sponsored by: FFA Foundation General Fund

- How good is your chapter? This award rates your FFA chapter's performance by evaluating its completed program of activities.
- The award encourages teamwork and develops leadership in you and your fellow members.
- Your chapter may be recognized as a Superior Chapter in your state and receive a spur for the chapter's state plaque. Ten percent of the chapters which receive this rating go on to national competition. Here they are ranked Bronze, Silver or Gold FFA Chapters and recognized before thousands of FFA members at the National FFA Convention. A spur is provided for the chapter's national plaque.
- To compete your chapter must complete Form I & II of the National Chapter Award Application. A National Chapter Award Handbook is also available (divider #1.10 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Building Our American Communities—Phase One and Two

Sponsored by: R. J. Reynolds Industries, Incorporated

- Building Our American Communities (BOAC) encourages members to become involved in local community development activities. BOAC recognizes chapters and individuals for achievements in community development.
- FFA chapters join with other community groups and leaders to identify needs and take action. Your chapter BOAC committee works to solicit and coordinate community support.
- Once a community project is complete, your chapter submits an application to the state FFA office. The state winning chapter competes at the regional and national levels.
- Phase Two recognizes individuals who are most resourceful in the development and execution of the BOAC program. State winners and advisors participate in an all-expense-paid National FFA Conference on Community Development in Washington, D.C. each September.
- For more information on BOAC refer to the BOAC Committee Handbook and the BOAC Chapter Award Application (divider #1.02 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Food For America

Sponsored by: Mobay Chemical Corporation

Food For America helps FFA members tell agriculture's story to grade school children across America.

- Your chapter forms a Food For America Committee and contacts local elementary schools to set up tours of area farms, greenhouses and agribusinesses.
- A Food For America kit is available (divider #2.07 in the Chapter Resource System File).

National FFA Week

FFA Week Material Design and Development
Sponsored by: Estech, Inc.
Annual Theme Show
Sponsored by: The Wrangler Brand
Public Service Announcements
Sponsored by: Deere & Company

FFA Week is your chapter's chance to explain and promote vocational agriculture and FFA.

- Your chapter can be recognized for its involvement in FFA Week by completing a participation form which is found in the FFA Week Idea Booklet. Your chapter can earn a Certificate of Participation by filling in and returning the form.
- A theme audio-visual is prepared each year which supports the FFA Week theme. This can be presented to many different audiences in your community.
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs), short messages urging support for vocational agriculture and FFA, are prepared and distributed to television, radio, newspapers and magazines by the National FFA Center.
- Each year your chapter receives an FFA Week packet. This packet contains an Idea Booklet, order forms for materials, proclamations and clip art which can be sent to local newspapers. You can order more materials through the Official FFA Catalog.
- For information on FFA Week see divider #2.06 in the Chapter Resource System File.

National Chapter Safety Award Program

Sponsored by: Dow Chemical U.S.A.
Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute

- Recognizes chapters which make the community a safer place to live and work.
- FFA chapters present safety programs, give demonstrations and educational programs, and workshops on fire prevention and farm equipment safety.
- Your chapter could win a state award or a special national citation. Spurs are presented on the state and national level for your chapter's award plaques.
- For more information, refer to the Safety Committee Handbook and the National Chapter Safety Award Application (divider #1.04 in the Chapter Resource System File).

Official FFA Calendar Program

- Chapters promote FFA and make money by donating and selling Official FFA Calendars. Four styles of calendars are available: Home & Office, Desk, Poster and Wallet.
- FFA Calendar materials are mailed to your chapter in August. The Official FFA Catalog also has complete details and order forms.
- For more information on the calendar program, consult the Chapter Resource System File (divider #2.02).

The National FFA Alumni Association

- FFA Alumni support the local vocational agriculture program and FFA chapter. They help coach judging teams, assist with fund-raising activities and get involved with school and governmental affairs.
- Over 23,000 people are members of the National FFA Alumni Association. There are approximately 750 local alumni affiliates throughout the nation.
- For information on how to organize an FFA Alumni Affiliate, refer to the FFA Alumni Handbook (divider #2.01 in the Chapter Resource System File).

National FFA Convention

- The National FFA Convention held in Kansas City each year is the pinnacle of success and excitement for many FFA members. Nearly 23,000 members and guests attend the convention to watch FFA members reach the highest levels of achievement
- Many chapters attend the convention annually. You may be one of the few selected to represent your chapter. Ask your advisor how you can attend the National FFA Convention.
- For more information on the National FFA Convention, refer to divider #2.05 in the Chapter Resource System File.

Awards and Programs on Other Levels

This special insert is for awards and programs offered on the national level only. However, there are several awards and programs available at district and state levels.

- For more information, ask your FFA advisor or check the Chapter Resource System File (dividers #1.13 and #2.12-2.14).

Who Picks Up the Tab?

Your national FFA dues are $2.50 per year. This money partially funds FFA awards and programs and helps offset the cost of producing six issues of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine.

It takes lots of money to provide you with all the opportunities FFA has to offer. And $2.50 per member does not cover all of the expenses. Even with a small income from FFA Supply Service sales, the FFA must rely on outside support.

That's where support from the National FFA Foundation comes in.

Individuals and businesses all over America recognize the significant contribution FFA and vocational agriculture makes to our society. They know that FFA members of today will be leading agriculture in the twenty-first century. In fact, sponsors recognized that future leadership by contributing $1.8 million dollars in 1984 through the National FFA Foundation.

If you've won an award or participated in an FFA program, you may want to thank your sponsors. Your advisor can give you their addresses.

The following is a list of sponsors not mentioned earlier in this special insert.

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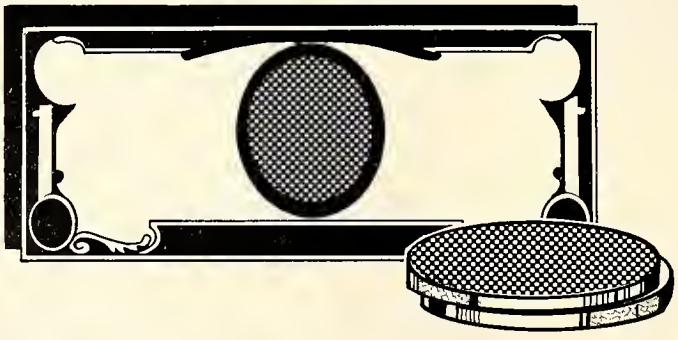

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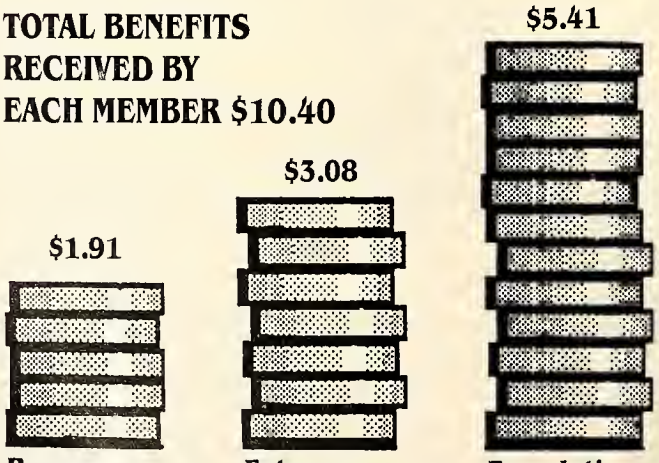

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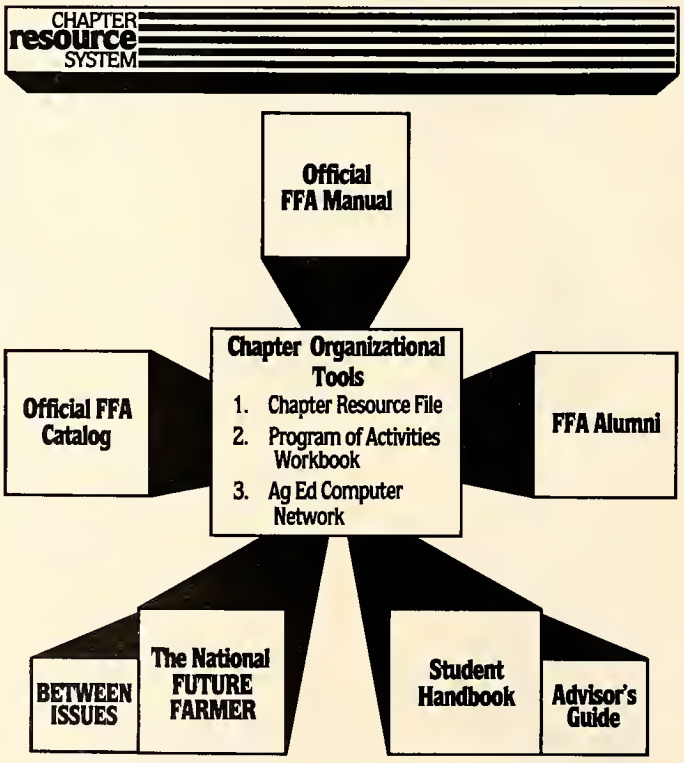
The Chapter Resource System

What You Should Know About the Chapter Resource System

It was designed with you in mind. Face it, information about FFA awards and programs is useless unless you know where it is and how to use it.

The FFA Chapter Resource System is made up of five elements: the Official FFA Manual; *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine & BETWEEN ISSUES; the Student Handbook & Advisor's Guide; the Official FFA Catalog and FFA Alumni.

The Chapter Resource System File stores information, applications, handbooks and materials mentioned earlier in this insert. Your chapter keeps the file stocked by ordering free materials through the Official FFA Catalog. With a properly maintained Chapter Resource System File, FFA opportunities are at your fingertips.



The elements represented in the Chapter Resource System are basic for every FFA chapter. These elements all contribute significantly to developing a successful FFA chapter as a part of the instructional program in vocational agriculture.

Use your resources to make the most of your opportunities in FFA!

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WCP

(Continued from Page 16)

Informal Sessions

Unlike a classroom, WCP leadership training sessions are split into groups of 25 FFA members or less. Students are not required to wear official FFA dress at all times, which gives a more informal atmosphere, says Karla Wheeler, a Missouri native who served as a WCP counselor in 1984.

"We want the students to look at WCP as being fun but also as a learning experience," says Karla.

Perry Storms, also a 1984 counselor, says one of the conference's strongest points is that it helps students realize what their talents are. "For some, it's the hatching out of the shyness or timidness," he says. "They realize that they're not so different than other people their age."

Perry also says as a result of the conference, "Students come to realize they have a responsibility in their FFA chapter and as a citizen, because of the things they come in contact with during the week."

Left, Mark Herndon, right, shows a WCP participant how to fill out a conference press release. Says Mark: "The counselors' role is somewhat like a big brother or big sister."

Those "things" include sightseeing to several national monuments, George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, the National FFA Center and congressional visits with U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

Often throughout the week, FFA members are encouraged to use what they have learned at WCP in their home chapter. "A lot of students realize that they need to take this information back home and share it with people," says Bruce Kettler, former national officer turned counselor. "They know WCP is a personal improvement thing, but they also realize that they have to share it in order to benefit others.

"As a result, they have a greater appreciation for their family, friends, chapter and advisors back home."

Mark Herndon says, "I think there is a special chemistry that happens at the conference. For many it is their first time away from home, and their first time in the nation's capital. To make so many friends in such a short while is a hard feeling to describe.

"The students know from the first day that it's an opportunity that will happen only once." •••

Computers

(Continued from Page 30)

and computing service for U.S. farmers, ranchers and agribusinessmen.

Tested By Ag Teachers

The Ag Ed Network was designed and tested by vo-ag teachers, according to Roger Berry, a vo-ag instructor and agribusiness consultant from Kokomo, Indiana. An advisory committee of 24 agricultural educators and industry leaders created the "live" textbook concept.

"One of the things we've found using this in teaching is that the network brings a lot of "real-world" data into the classroom. It's a great motivation device."

Mr. Berry teaches at Northwestern High School, Indiana, one of 50 "pilot schools" selected to review and test lessons on the network prior to September.

"I think it will eventually replace textbooks," he says. "Even new textbooks can become out of date within months. Information on Ag Ed Network is not just hours old; oftentimes it's minutes."

Response to the new teaching tool, according to Coleman Harris, FFA executive secretary, has been excellent. As many as 500 lesson modules are now available. Lessons cover farm business management, farm production planning, marketing farm products, information management and new technology in agriculture.

FFA Foundation Support

The National FFA Foundation, Inc., is soliciting business and industry financial support to help vo-ag departments pay for the use of the system. According to Bernie Staller, executive director of the Foundation, FFA's goal is to have all 500 modules sponsored by individual companies—a commitment of nearly $400,000 from business and industry.

"Through the sponsorship of the lesson modules, there will be no cost to selected pilot schools to utilize the system for the first year," says Mr. Staller. "After that, it will be up to them to determine its (the network) effectiveness."

Each state winner of the new Computers in Agriculture award earned a $500 grant to make the network available to their vo-ag department.

HARRIS: "We feel that utilizing computer technology in the high school vo-ag classroom is extremely important if we are to appeal to quality students who have the ability to become leaders. . ."

"Lessons are sponsored in bundles of five each," says Mr. Staller. "Sponsors will provide the cost of putting the lessons on the system, about $4,175 for a three-year period. This not only puts the lesson on the system, but will also maintain and update that lesson for three years."

Dwight Horkheimer, FFA's ag computer specialist, says, "The money a sponsor pays goes toward making a lesson available for free. In addition, sponsors are also paying a dollar amount for the initial one-year user cost for any pilot school.

"Pilot schools are only made available as the lessons are sponsored," says Mr. Horkheimer, a former high school ag instructor.

After a pilot school's first year, Mr. Staller says the basic cost of the system is $224 per year for the Ag Ed Network, plus a fee for connect-time. "We anticipate that a school which would use this system between 13-15 hours of actual connect-time would be paying approximately $500 per year," he says.

High schools must have access to any type of microcomputer in the agriculture department, a modem and telephone line.

Computer Literacy

Mr. Berry says the experience students get on computers will help prepare them for their futures. He says many jobs today require computer literacy.

"If we are going to keep up with modern agriculture, we have to use modern resources," he says.

"However, I think we need to keep in mind that the computer is simply a tool," he adds. "It's not gong to make decisions for you."

Coleman Harris says the FFA pursued the nationwide computer network concept for two reasons. "We need to keep up-to-date with modern agricultural techniques," he explains. "Secondly, we want to enhance the quality and quantity of vo-ag enrollment.

"We feel that utilizing computer technology in the high school vo-ag classroom is extremely important if we are to appeal to quality students who have the ability to become leaders in agriculture in this nation," says Mr. Harris.

Mr. Berry agrees. "I think one of the misconceptions of the general public is that farmers are backwards or dumb," he says. "If a student is undecided about going into agriculture, maybe computers in vo-ag will show the sophistication of agriculture." •••

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A Checklist For Officers: some tips that will help you get

Ready To Lead

If you have been elected, or plan to run for an FFA office someday, these words of leadership advice may help.

By Michael Wilson

So you've just been elected to serve as an FFA officer. Congratulations!

You're brimming with confidence, full of enthusiasm and energy, ready to lead others on to FFA glory. Nothing will stop you!

You *are* ready to lead, aren't you?

As an officer, you will make many important decisions affecting not just yourself, but others around you. Your actions can mean the difference between success or failure.

These tips, offered by your 1984 national officers, will help assure success for you and future FFA leaders.

Set an example for other members. "No one ever loses any respect for someone who is willing to get in and do the small, less glamorous things that *need* to be done," says Ron Wineinger, national president.

That is good advice for anyone. But it's especially important to officers if they want others to respect them as leaders, says Ron.

Carol Irvine, eastern region vice president says, "If one officer is goofing off at a meeting, then you can expect others to goof off, too. It's an old line, but the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If one person isn't doing the job then five others have that much more work."

Concentrate on your officer duties. An officer's job can easily be broken up two ways: first, as an individual with specific duties; second, as part of a leadership team.

If you've been elected reporter, do your best job as a reporter. Don't do the secretary's job, too. By giving your best

(Continued on Page 54)

Leadership
...For The Rest Of Us

You can also be a leader without serving as an officer. "We're all vital to the chapter," says Melody Lawson. "Being an officer is just one area of leadership."

Bill Caraway agrees. "Before you can be a good chapter officer, you've got to be a good chapter member," he says. "And if you don't get elected, become a better member."

You can be a leader by simply pursuing your own interests in vocational agriculture or FFA. If you're interested in livestock, try out for the team or volunteer your farm's stock for judging practice.

Any time you can do something to benefit the chapter, you're being a leader, says Melody. "If you've found what you're interested in, developed some skills and tried to help younger members develop their skills, then you're doing your part," she says.

Only a handful of people become chapter officers, and those who are not elected should not become discouraged. Although he served as chapter secretary as a junior, Bill Caraway was defeated in his attempt to run for president as a senior. He was never a state officer. In spite of this, Bill went on to win the 1981 national extemporaneous public speaking contest, and later was elected national FFA secretary. •••

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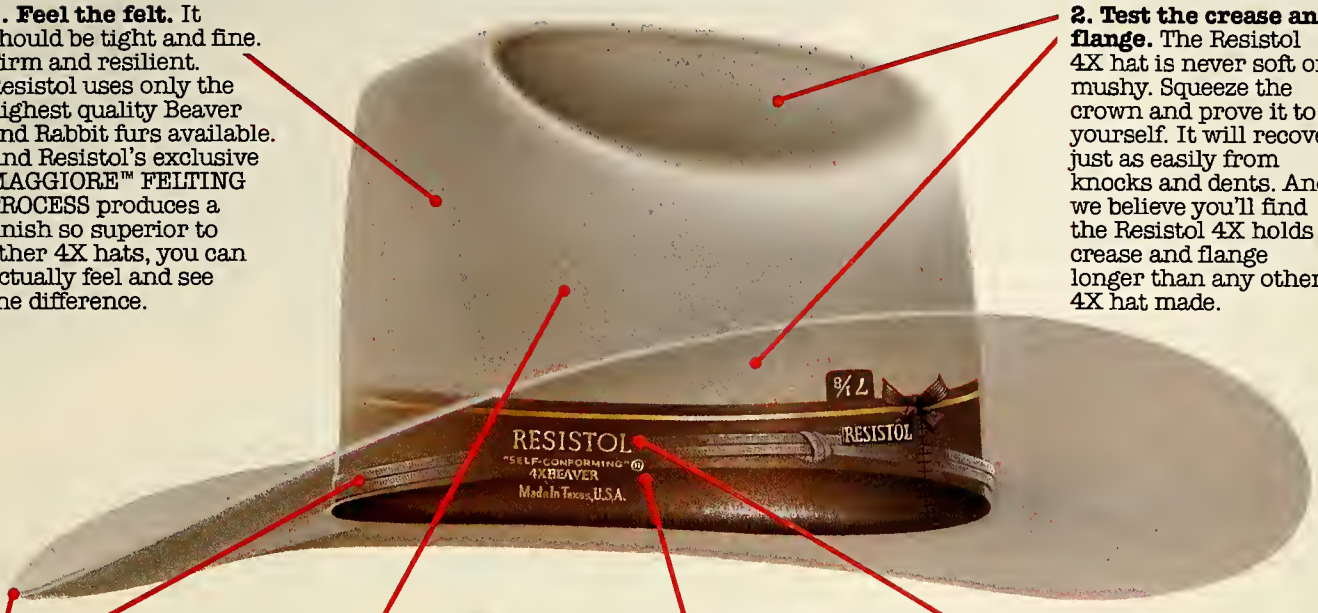

3. Check the detail. Notice the quality of the trim. It should look good and be securely and discreetly attached. And, high quality felt has a tapered or beveled brim edge. Never chopped off or flat. Resistol is proud to set the industry standards for trim and finishing with the extraordinarily crafted Resistol 4X.

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Officers

(Continued from Page 52)

effort to your own individual duties, you are serving your officer team and chapter to the best of your abilities.

As a team member, officers should strive to treat each other as equals. "My first office was as chapter sentinel," says Carol, "but the president made me feel just as important as he was. I appreciated that."

Service above self. The national officers have adopted the theme, "Service above self" as a team motto. "Any time you're an officer or a leader, the real key is to think about what's best for FFA or your chapter, rather than what's best for me," says Ron.

Delegate responsibility. Be able to assign activities to other members of the chapter, advises Rhonda Scheulen, central region vice president.

This is important for several reasons: it gets other members involved, makes them feel needed and important, and increases the productivity of your chapter. The satisfaction of a job well done is more meaningful when several members are involved, says Rhonda.

"There are times when an officer has to take the bull by the horns and lead by example," she says. "But you have to give other people the chance to work, too. Sometimes it's the biggest thrill in the world for a Greenhand to be asked to do a job or lead a committee."

Delegate responsibilities fairly. Base your decisions on members' willingness to work, not popularity.

"By doing a good job as an officer, without letting popularity do the job for you, you demonstrate how your chapter can be successful based on performance, not popularity," says Melody Lawson, western region vice president. "People will remember that."

Give Credit Where Credit is Due. "Officers need to make a point of emphasizing the people who have done excellent work through the year," says Melody.

Your officer team can make hard-working FFA members feel appreciated by pointing out their efforts and thanking them during an FFA meeting, or presenting certificates which recognize their contributions.

This will help ensure the most qualified people are elected next year, says Melody. Younger members will see that people who do good jobs are rewarded.

There is nothing worse than an officer who, wishing to be re-elected, suddenly develops an interest in his fellow FFA members two weeks before the election.

FFA is a high priority. When you were elected, you made a commitment to your chapter that you would devote as much time as possible toward FFA activities. That means arriving early to meetings, staying late if necessary, and pitching in on the little, thankless jobs behind all activities.

"New officers have to face the fact that they must devote more time and energy to building FFA and their chapter," says Carol. "But officers need to remember that some members may not share their degree of enthusiasm about the FFA.

"In spite of that, officers have to keep their enthusiasm high—eventually it will catch on like wildfire to the others."

Keep in touch. Now that you are an officer, it is more important than ever to communicate with fellow members. This will help you better understand the strengths and weaknesses of your chapter.

More important, members will respect and admire you more if you sincerely value their opinions, *throughout the year*. There is nothing worse than an officer who, wishing to be re-elected, suddenly develops an interest in his fellow FFA members two weeks before the election.

"If you don't associate with them and you're the leader, who are you going to lead? And how are you going to lead?" asks Bill Caraway, national FFA secretary. "Be able to talk with members without sounding like it's a campaign."

The closer you are to the people you lead, the better job you will do as their leader, says Chuck Duggar, southern region vice president.

"People think that national officers have more impact than chapter officers," says Chuck. "But really, officers on the local level have more opportunities to make a difference because they spend more time with each member.

"The end result is, if your chapter has been successful, you've been successful." •••

Photos by Bill Stagg

The closer you are to the people you lead, the better job you will do as their leader.

Below, by giving your best effort to your own duties, you serve your officer team and chapter to the best of your abilities.

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A Chance To Ranch

Despite an uncertain future, this FFA member is determined to become a rancher someday.

IT's home.

Been part of the family since 1841. Since my ancestors crossed the Plains in a wagon train.

But it's so split up now. Land divided too often in the name of giving everyone a fair share of the home place. . .

Thoughts like these often run through Matthew Fiegel's head. Matthew, 17, of Julian, California, figures it may soon be time for him to leave the family ranch—there's simply not enough ranch to go around.

The Fiegels live on a 2,500-acre cow/calf beef ranch near Julian, California. That may sound like a lot of land to a Corn Belt farmer, but out on the range, it's a drop in the bucket. Unlike *"Dallas,"* where oil barons leap out of limos and onto horses, the real world of ranching revolves around two things: living within your resources and tight management.

"I've lived here my whole life," Matthew says of the ranch. "But I don't think it's going to be mine someday. I'm the third of four kids and it barely supports us. My dad also works for the road department and my mom is a waitress. When I turn 18 or get out of high school, I'll more or less be gone."

Matthew's challenge is not unlike those faced by many young people today. Like Matthew, many desire careers in farming or ranching. But often the family business is not large enough to support another partner.

That's when it's time to make some tough decisions.

Matthew has decided his dream is too important to give up. He knows what he wants to do in life—even if it means leaving the family ranch and starting somewhere else.

"I want to go into ranch managing,

(Continued on Page 62)

Matthew Fiegel, right, is confident of a career as a rancher, despite an uncertain future. Below, Matthew "directs" a steer through a squeeze-chute.

Adjournment is just the beginning.

The gavel falls. The crowd files out. Another Future Farmers of America National Convention is history.

And again, the Production Credit Associations and Federal Land Bank Associations are there sponsoring one of FFA's most important programs — recognition of the American Farmer degree recipients.

But our support doesn't end at adjournment. In fact, our local associations will be involved with many FFA activities throughout the country, throughout the year. Because we believe helping young people prepare for careers in agriculture is important... not only for the well-being of the industry, but the nation and world as well.

That's why we want to offer special encouragement to those students considering careers in production agriculture or agribusiness.

And why we pledge our continued support of FFA — 365 days a year.

Production Credit Association

Federal LAND BANK Association

News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

The *Dorman,* SC, Chapter safety committee offered a hunter safety education course in August. The course was conducted in cooperation with the state's department of wildlife and marine resources and taught good sportsmanship, proper hunting ethics, proper gun handling techniques and safety.

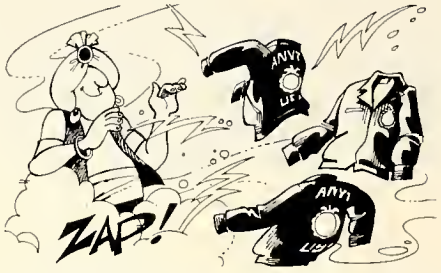
N-N-N

Creighton, NE, FFA organized a pre-fair tractor driving contest in the school parking lot. It let everybody get ready for the big event at the fair.

N-N-N

Officers of the *Cass County Voc-Tec* FFA in MO spent a three-day session in the Ozarks planning the year's activities. After their work they enjoyed trout fishing, camping and swimming.

N-N-N



Anthony Wayne, OH, FFA participated in Fascination Day at a local middle school and told students there about FFA.

N-N-N

Reporter **Barbra Pereira** of the *Merced,* CA, FFA writes about the award designed to salute her grandfather who died last year. He was a farmer in the community and like himself, his sons and grandchildren have been involved with the FFA. So a special tribute fund was established by family and friends and it was used this year to purchase a dairy buckle to honor the high individual on the dairy team.

N-N-N

The June meeting of the *North Mahaska* FFA in New Sharon, IA, was at Lake Keomah with a swim first. The air was cool but the water was warm.

N-N-N

Cara D'Ann Jernigan was named winner of the '84 *Mansfield,* TX, Alumni scholarship. The $500 scholarship is presented annually to a senior who through their leadership, scholarship and supervised occupational experience program has proven to be an outstanding member of the local chapter.

N-N-N

The *George W. Long* Chapter in Skipperville, AL, won the state livestock judging contest, and had the state swine production winner. Plus six State Farmers at their summer's state convention.

In KY, *Farmington* and *Sedalia,* Chapters in Graves County, worked together to build an exhibit for their state fair. The theme was "FFA—Kentucky Crops, Keeping America on the Grow."

N-N-N

Lee Scaggs and **Chris Bilow** painted the vo-ag classroom this summer in Mexico, NY.

N-N-N

The *Centreville,* MI, Chapter broke up the summer doldrums with an area softball tourney. *Cassopolis* Chapter won overall. One big feature was the hotdog feed for all participants.

N-N-N

In *Deland,* FL, FFA members are preparing for the fall roundup—a barbeque dinner and rodeo for under 18.

N-N-N

Freshmen and sophomore students at *Agua Fria,* AZ, grew potatoes in their experimental drip system and then donated the 150 pounds of potatoes harvested to the local food bank.

N-N-N

Notus, ID, hosts a goodbye seniors dance to salute and say goodbye.

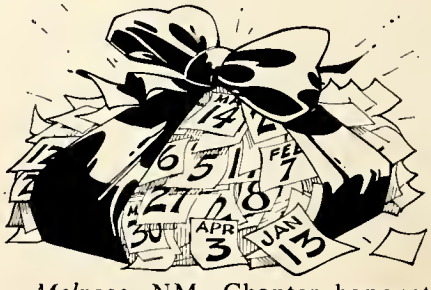
N-N-N

Jerry Coats, reporter in *Thayer,* MO, sent word about their chapter sponsored mini-rod garden tractor pull this spring. It was a success and so they're planning another this fall.

N-N-N

There were 30 members and guests at the *DeWitt Central,* IA, Chapter swim party at a local country club pool.

N-N-N



Melrose, NM, Chapter banquet wrapped up a whole year of success.

N-N-N

From the *Carrizozo,* NM, Chapter **Grey** and **Lynn Gallagher, John Roueche** and **Mary Jane Ferguson** received the State Farmer degree at the state convention. Also Advisors **Gaines** and **Ferguson** were given the Honorary State Farmer degrees.

N-N-N

Albuquerque Cibola, NM, Chapter started a vidoetape library this year. They've taped guest speakers, member public speaking entries, the awards banquet and other chapter activities.

Jimmy Carpenter is the fourth member of the *Carroll County,* VA, Chapter to be selected as Star State Agribusinessman in four years. He was also elected to a state office. His two brothers were also officers of the state association.

N-N-N

Big Timber, MT, FFA has elected twin brothers as reporters—**Bill** and **Fred Harmon.** It will test the old saying "two heads are better than one."

N-N-N

Cobleskill, NY, banquet slide show roasted outgoing and incoming officers.

N-N-N

Shelley Olson won a $100 scholarship for a senior member of the *Lexington,* OK, Chapter who plans to attend college.

N-N-N

In order to ensure attendance and avoid any loss of food and finances, the *Cumberland Valley,* PA, required a cash reservation be made by members for the FFA picnic.

N-N-N

Arroyo Grande, CA, Chapter hosts an annual junior livestock fair designed to help 4-H members (ages 9-16) prepare themselves and their animals for the local fairs.

N-N-N

Zillah, WA, won the "In Club" award at the state convention for getting every member involved in at least one chapter project during the year.

N-N-N

Received a brief message from one chapter: *Silo,* OK, FFA bleeds for charity. Some 47 students and teachers gave.

N-N-N

Easton-Fresno, CA, held an open house in the spring so their community could observe the improvements in the vo-ag department.

N-N-N

The FFA's contribution for the *Cleveland,* OK, pioneer day celebration was a children's barnyard. Animals included three horses for the kids to ride.

N-N-N

Keep the old mail pouch full now that chapters are back in session. What neat things are going on to increase membership? Or participation? Or SOEP? Don't wait for the reporter to send in news about your chapter, you can do it.

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High-Tech Dairy

The Shade brothers of Alexandria, Pennsylvania, use computer skills to thrust the family dairy into a new era of management efficiency.

By John Dutcher

THE Holstein cows at Shade Acres don't eat like pigs anymore.

Once, the bovine beauties gobbled their feed in pursuit of the last mouthful of grain. Now, a computer feeding system dishes up dinner and the "girls" aren't given feed. They earn it.

"It saves us so much money because there's never any waste," says Chip Shade, 19. "Each cow gets exactly what she's supposed to, no more, no less."

The computerized feeding system is just one of the high-tech tools FFA members Chip and Jim Shade, 16, of Alexandria, Pennsylvania, use to keep the family farm efficient and profitable.

The Shade family farm is one in transition. It's changing from today's production methods to those of the future; changing from parents to sons.

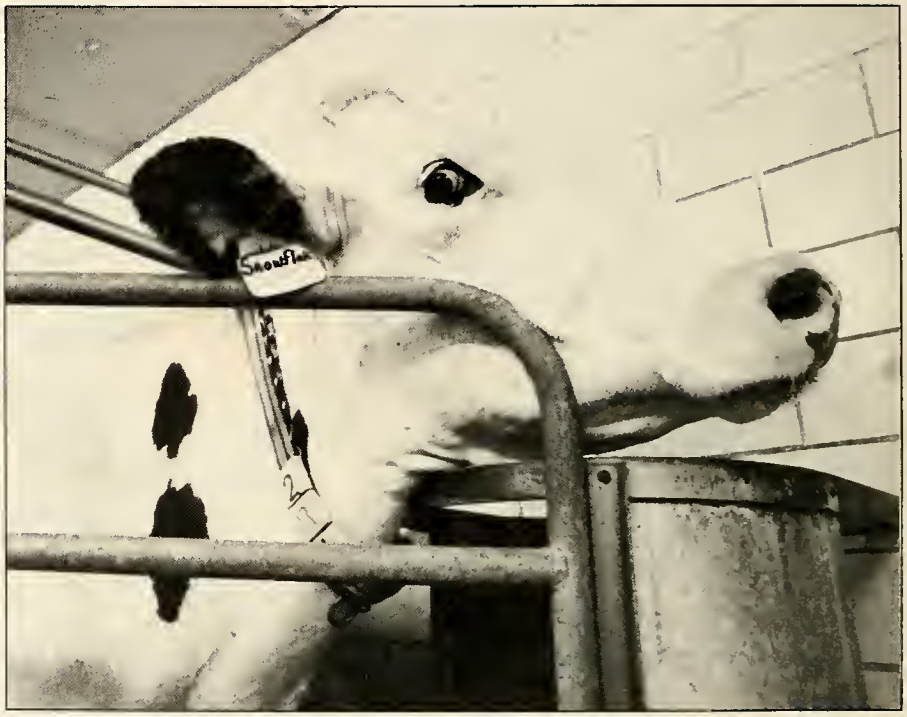
The Shades are making the changes very well. They're prospering in today's uncertain dairy industry because they know how to make the Computer Age work for them.

For the Shades, the Computer Age started two years ago when Chip and Jim's father, Geary, bought a Westfalia Separator, a German-made dairy computer and feeding system—one of only two in Pennsylvania at the time. The system, which includes a computer, radio transmitter collars and three automated feeders, had a price tag that would choke a cow: $17,200.

The Shade family farm is one in transition. It's changing from today's production methods to those of the future; changing from parents to sons.

The computer feeding set-up was worth the money, according to Mr. Shade. It's so efficient that it paid for itself in just 13 months. "There's just nothing we ever bought that paid for itself that soon," says Chip, who programs the Westfalia.

Chip's only computer training was reading the owner's manual to learn how to program the system. "It's really pretty simple to operate," he says. Each cow's ration is programed into the computer along with her breeding records. The rations are developed for each cow to receive a given amount of feed based on milk production and stage of lactation. Once programed, the cows are fitted with radio transmitter collars.



Above, the numbers on the collar correspond to the computer's number for each cow's breeding record. *Photos by Author*

Each time a cow approaches a feeder, a sensory device reads the collar and checks with the computer to see who the cow is. The computer activates the feeder if the cow hasn't eaten her alloted ration for that part of the day. As Chip says, "the collars are their meal tickets for life."

Each cow's feed is divided for distribution, 2.2 ounces at a time, in three eight-hour periods. The feed ration is made up of soybean meal and ground ear corn mixed with minerals, which are separately distributed from bins inside the feeders. Rations can be reprogramed for cows as their nutrition and production needs change.

"With this system, a cow has 24 hours to eat her feed instead of 15 minutes," says Chip. The result: little wasted feed and a herd milk butterfat test which has jumped from 3.2 percent before the system was installed to 3.8 percent today.

To Each His Own

Chip and Jim's computer interests echo their specialties on the farm. "Chip likes working with the cattle," explains Mr. Shade. "Jim is more interested in working the crops."

It's not surprising, then, that Chip and Jim also divide computer work. Chip works almost entirely on the Westfalia, programing herd rations, as well as health and breeding records. Jim on the other hand, does the farm accounting, record keeping and develops feed rations using the family's Apple II.

Jim started at Juniata Valley High School about the same time computers hit the classroom. He and Mr. Shade

Above, Chip, right, and Jim, left, update individual cow's feed rations each day at noon. The rations are developed from a computer program Jim wrote.

took a summer course to learn how to use computers for farm accounting and record keeping.

The course was enough to convince Mr. Shade that, *yes,* he needed a computer and, *no,* he didn't plan on using it. "Dad won't learn to use the computer," Jim whispers. "He says it's for the new generation."

Jim doesn't buy computer programs. He writes his own using Visicalc software. Jim says a good farm accounting program, like the one he wrote in six hours, can cost up to $500. "When Dad and I sit down to write a program, we can get it done," says Jim. "I just have to know what he wants."

In addition to the accounting system, Jim has written programs for crops, feed rations and farm records. He's even plotted out a farmland program with detailed diagrams of each field giving slope, locations of field tile, and fertilizer/lime application records.

Jim's most impressive program has kept the family from going crazy trying to keep track of milk production records. Accurate records are crucial because the Shades are participating in the federal government's Milk Diversion Program.

Less Milk

The program went into effect on January 1, 1984 and is designed to reduce the U.S. milk surplus. Dairy producers could sign up for the program to reduce their production from between 5-30 percent based on their average over the last two years.

The Shades signed up for the program and cut production 27 percent. Under the program, their production can only vary by 3 percent above their limit.

Without accurate records, they could overproduce and loose thousand of dollars of incentive pay (the program pays producers $10 per cwt if they stay inside their limit). So Jim wrote a program that averages milk production for each

Above, the Shade family: left to right, Chip, Judy, Jim and Geary.

period in the 15-month program and lets him figure out how to lower production when nesessary.

Since the program forbids dairymen to sell producing cattle to other producers, when production goes up, they have a choice: dump milk or slaughter cows.

"Cow Games"

When the Shades milk production gets dangerously close to the limit, Jim starts playing "cow games" with his computer. He simulates what short and long-range effects the loss of a particular cow would have on the herd.

Thanks to the program, Jim has taken the headaches out of reducing production. "Without Jim's program I don't know how we'd ever keep within our production limit," says Judy Shade, Chip and Jim's mother.

The Shades say they joined the Computer Age as soon as posible to help smooth the family's biggest transition: a farm from parents to sons. Mr. and Mrs. Shade plan to retire from farming in 1987 to "take some vacations they've been missing out on."

The shift should be easy, for both Chip and Jim have the interest and computer know-how to make quite a partnership in the dairy business.

Now that they've got the cows to stop eating like pigs, it's time to tackle future challenges. •••

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Ranch

(Continued from Page 56)

where I can make my own decisions and be around the things I've grown up with," he says. "I may end up managing somebody else's ranch. So this is why I'm learning everything I can here at home. My Dad has turned a lot of decisions over to me."

Making those decisions is no easy task, with both parents working and Matthew finishing out his senior year at Julian High School. "This spring Dad and I ran about 120 calves through our working corral," Matthew gestures. "We castrate and ear-mark them in March, and take care of any other needs later. I check the cows on horseback about every three days in the summer." He also shows cattle at the local fair each year.

When Matthew, his two sisters and brother inherit the ranch, many things could happen.

"We'll probably split it up four ways," he says, "But I don't want to see that happen. I want to see it a whole ranch, maybe each of us with 25 percent of the cows.

"I saw it happen to my grandparents," he says shaking his head. "My great grandparents came here in 1841, settled here, and since then from generation to generation, the ranch has been all split up, down to 40 acres here, 30 acres there.

"You can't work it as a ranch anymore because everybody wants to do what they want with their own share—they've got their own ideas."

Matthew has ideas too. He plans to study ag mechanics and ranch management at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo after graduation next year. He saved money for college through his SOE program.

"I was given a cow when I was born, and each year the money from the calf would end up in my savings account for college," says Matthew. "When I was a freshman in FFA, I expanded and bought two more cows at pretty good prices." Matthew has eight other cows given to him by his father in exchange for working on the ranch.

"I bought a Limousin bull, which I use to breed my cows," explains Matthew. "A third of the income on the calves pays for the pasture rent."

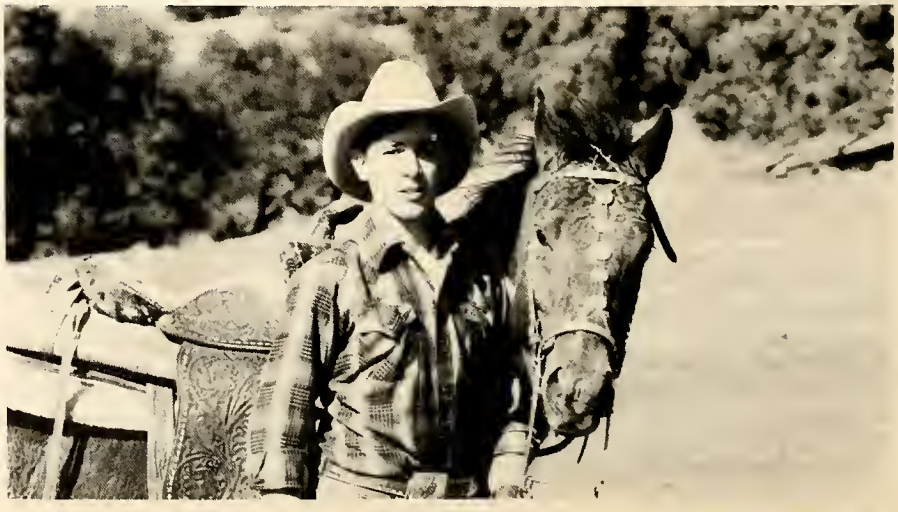
He has also worked as a hired hand at Kinnerin Ranch, a purebred Brangus operation near Julian. "It's the kind of ranch I can get experience at," says Matthew, who was employed through the Julian vo-ag department's placement program. "And experience is everything."

Experience and education should help make Matthew's dream come true. But there's one additional ingredient that ties it all together, something every young person needs to tackle the real world after high school: confidence.

"Once I'm out of college. I think I'll do all right," Matthew says in a quiet, determined voice.

"All I need is to get my foot in the door. I may not know *how* yet," he laughs, "but I know I can prove myself. If I just get the chance." •••

Right, Matthew uses the family's working corral and squeeze-chute to condition show animals. Below, home from checking the cows on horseback.



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Careers In

Food Inspection

By Shirley Jones

THE funny thing about growing up and getting a job is that you often end up doing something much different than you ever imagined.

Despite all my first grade plans for becoming a cowboy, I ended up at a word processor instead of a horse. I can't travel very far on it, but there isn't much feed expense, either.

The moral of the story is this: there are a world of jobs out there, hidden in office buildings and throughout the countryside, just waiting for talented people to come along.

One vast source of employment is the United States Government. In this issue we'll take a look at a career you may have never considered, yet one you may be perfectly suited for: **food inspection.**

Stan Prochaska, of USDA in Washington, D.C., explains that a federal agency called the Food Safety and Quality Service makes sure food and food products are *inspected* for wholesomeness because it is mandated by law. Don't confuse this with *grading*, the service provided by another agency which assigns levels of quality and is purely voluntary.

A little history is in order to help you understand why food wholesomeness is so important, beyond the obvious health reasons.

Unsanitary Conditions

In 1906, a writer named Upton Sinclair wrote a book called *The Jungle,* which told of unsanitary conditions in Chicago's meat packinghouses. Not much time passed before the public uproar caused President Theodore Roosevelt to order an investigation. The U.S. Congress held hearings and their outcome was the *Federal Meat Inspection Act* of 1906.

The law said cattle, hogs, sheep and goats had to be inspected at slaughter. Processed meats had to be inspected for additives, and packing plants had to be sanitary. Up until 1957, poultry inspection was voluntary, but today it too is required.

That act gave birth to a need for food inspectors. Sandra Cox, working from a Minneapolis-based USDA office, says that beginning food inspectors have several major responsibilities. They work with veterinary medical officers in red meat or poultry plants to ensure that slaughtered animals intended for human food are disease free and handled in a sanitary manner. They work on the kill floors of slaughterhouses, looking for abnormal animals. And they work in food processing plants that use meat or poultry in their products.

The position is one of great responsibility, since inspectors must carefully observe carcasses and remove the unwholesome ones from the line.

More than 9,000 federal inspectors and veterinarians work in some 7,000 meat and poultry slaughtering and processing plants throughout the country, according to a USDA publication. "Since the meat industry is a large part of the nation's economy, positions are sure to be around for a long while," says Ms. Cox.

You can also advance in the industry by becoming a "processing inspector." This means you would work in food manufacturing to help manufacturers comply with regulations regarding food additives, fat and water percentages, labels and other specifications.

Requirements for becoming a food inspector include passing a written test. College course work is not required, but like any job, classes could be helpful. Requirements are spelled out more fully in the government's brochure about this career.

Dr. Bob Marshall of the University of Missouri says a knowledge of biology and chemistry is quite helpful. "You need to understand the diseases that might occur," he says, "and biology in particular can give you a good understanding."

Salaries for beginning food inspectors range between $13,000 and $14,000 per year. After a one-year probation period, employees are eligible for increases of up to $3,000 per year.

Along with education, there are some physical requirements as well. Good color vision is needed to help spot abnormalities. The ability to work in a standing position is critical; the strength to lift moderate weight and the use of both hands is important.

Salaries for beginning food inspectors range between $13,000 and $14,000 per year. After a one-year probation period, employees are eligible for increases of up to $3,000 per year.

You can get more information by writing to Food Safety Inspection Service, Personnel Operations Branch, Butler Square West, 4th Floor, 100 North Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403. •••

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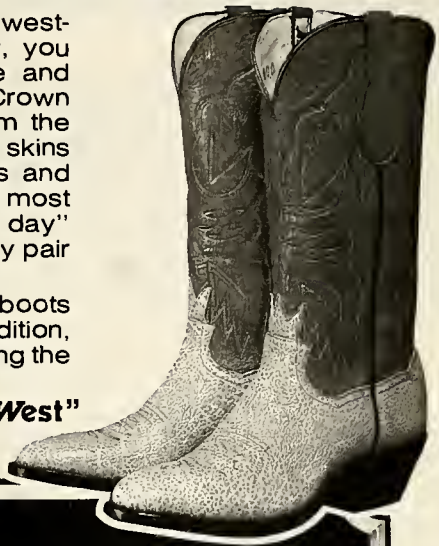

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The work days were actually fun for the large cleanup crew from West Muskingum Chapter who volunteered time and hard work in exchange for some good recreation.

Chapter Camp Cleaners

Several FFA members, alumni and the advisors from the West Muskingum FFA Chapter in Zanesville, Ohio, participated in a two-day cleanup of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum.

Chapter members assisted the camp staff in several projects that included cutting, splitting and stacking five cords of firewood; planting 1,000 white pine seedlings, constructing picnic tables, removing dead and damaged trees, landscaping and numerous other projects.

The evening of the first day was spent fishing, swimming and a volleyball game against the camp staff. The members really enjoyed themselves and provided the camp staff plenty of help to get the camp ready for the several hundred FFA members attending the six camp sessions. *(Pat Lichtner, Reporter)* • • •

Learning on the Land

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, Chapter reports on the farming operations of their new school land laboratory.

Before the land was ready for planting, the farm was tiled by a drainage company. The tiling procedure started on June 6 and was completed on June 27. The back half of the farm was tiled with clay tile, the center of the farm was tiled with plastic tile and the front 4½ acres near the woods was tiled on 20-foot centers and has regulation stations to regulate the amount of water left in the tile which will act as an underground irrigation system called irridrain.

On June 25, the back portion of the school land laboratory was planted with the tractor purchased by the Oak Harbor FFA and a grain drill. The beans planted on this part of the farm were Washington V and AgriPro 350. These varieties were blended in the drill for planting. On this portion of the field, the herbicide plot which is sponsored by Monsanto is located. Lasso and Dual plots for comparison are on this part of the school farm.

Also planted on June 25 were no-till beans and conventional till planted Voris 295 soybeans. This will allow the FFA members to watch the difference between no-till and conventional till plantings during the summer and fall.

On June 26, Carl Miller worked in some chemicals for herbicide or weed control. This four-acre plot will be different from the rest of the field since it was sprayed as pre-emergence after planting. The weed control can be watched by the two plots.

After the soil incorporation of the herbicide, the planter purchased by the Oak Harbor Young Farmers began to plant beans in 30-inch rows beside the 14-inch rows. After planting nearly six acres, they doubled back in the same rows splitting the difference and making 15-inch rows for row spacing variables. All of this planting was done with Voris 295 seed. The planting rate of the 30-inch rows was 72 pounds of seed per acre, and when doubled back was 144 pounds of seed per acre. Beside these rows, the grain drill was used in 7-inch rows with the Voris seed. The FFA members will be able to see the different row spacings with the same seed and will check the yields at the end of the year.

The balance of the planting for June 26 was drilled with Keller seed and this completed the center portion of the laboratory.

The final part of the land laboratory was on the irridrained land. On this 4½ acres the chapter put in some variety plots with Voris 285, Bin Run Williams 79, Asgrow 3127, Williams 79, Beeson 80, Vickery, Wellman 335 and Wellman 245. This plot area will be used to see what the late planting will do to the varieties in the test. When harvested these varieties will be separately harvested with yield checks taken as to the profitability of each variety on stress conditions and late plantings.

The chapter would like to express thanks to the people that contributed time, labor, machinery, supplies, and helped to get the school farm started. A special thanks goes to the Soil Conservation Office for their help and guidance in designing the tiling system. *(Gary Chambers, Reporter)* • • •

On With The Show

Cass County Voc-Tec FFA, Harrisonville, Missouri, recently received $150 from area pork producers to assist in building show panels for the local North Park show barn. Ten panels were built by FFA members Toni Chafin, Mike Wray and Matt Wray.

The North Park show barn has been a part of the chapter's BOAC project for several years and they have assisted with the planning and building of the arena and barn. Chapter funds also went to purchase three metal gates for the show barn for this show season. *(Doug Roth, Reporter)* • • •

Team Talents

In June the Kuna, Idaho, FFA members traveled to the state judging contests held at the University of Idaho. The first night was spent at Wallowa Lake where the Kuna Chapter had a softball game and picnic scheduled with the Meridian Chapter. The game was cancelled because of the weather, but the picnic was still held.

After the chapter arrived at the university and since the contests didn't start until the next day, the members spent time touring the university.

(Continued on Page 68)

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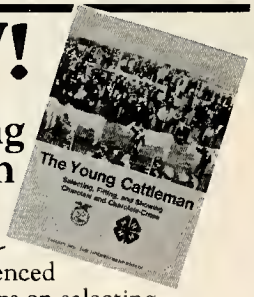

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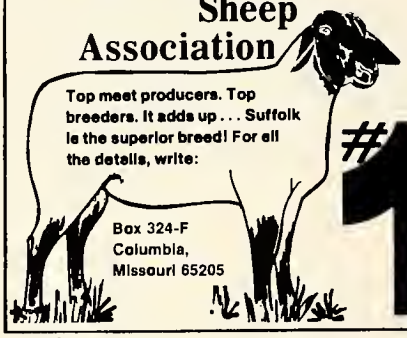

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 66)

The livestock team placed third overall with Greg Curtis and Mark Berheim in the top ten.

The agricultural mechanics team placed eighth overall with Steve Hines as second high individual in the small gasoline engine area.

The dairy products team placed eighth overall and the dairy cattle team placed first, therefore qualifying them to compete at the national convention in the fall. Tricia Callaway placed second high individual.

The poultry team got a third overall and Jeff Murri was seventh high individual.

In the agribusiness management contest Shawna Brown received eighth high individual and the team placed ninth.

The crops team placed second with Jacque Palmer fifth high and Lisa Beus as second high individual.

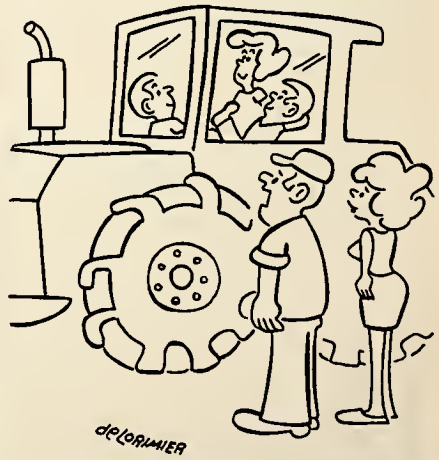
The meats team took second and Steve Hines placed ninth high and Lisa Beus placed fifth high. • • •

Playing T-Ball

The Stafford, Virginia, FFA sponsored their own 6-8-year-old T-ball team through the county parks and recreation department this past summer as part of their community involvement and youth development program.

The purpose of the T-ball program is to develop a sense of teamwork and sportsmanship for the 6-8-year-old girls and boys as well as teach the basics of baseball. The Stafford FFA felt that the development of character and ability to organize and work together a very worthwhile idea. In sponsoring the team the Stafford FFA's donation of $50 covered the team's registration and provided matching tee shirts for each team mem-

(Continued on Page 70)



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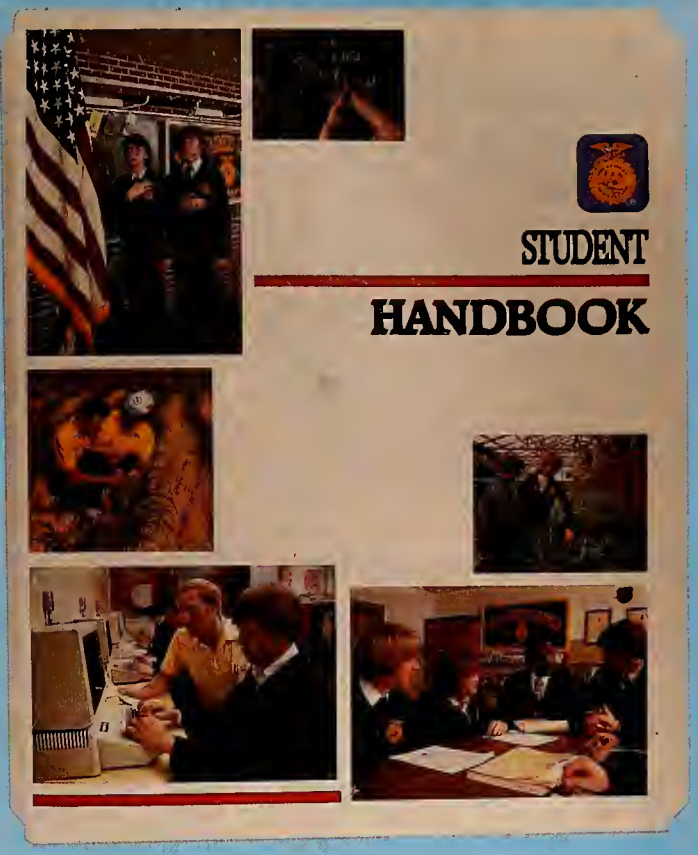

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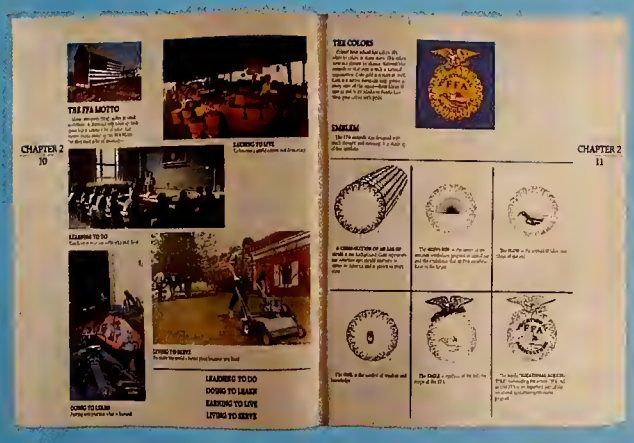

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(Pick up ACTION from Page 68)

ber. The team name was "Stafford FFA" and it consisted of 14 players. The Stafford FFA advisor served as the team coach.

The team finished the regular season tied for third place out of ten teams. Each team member received a certificate of achievement. Advisor Hall received a coach's award for leadership as a coach and in appreciation of support and interest in the welfare of our community and the FFA chapter received a sponsor certificate for support and interest in community welfare. • • •

Judgement in the Courtyard

Members of the Dorman, South Carolina, FFA Chapter recently completed and dedicated a courtyard for the students of Dorman High School.

The project took almost a year to complete starting in June of 1983, including the planning, grading, forming, pouring of cement, landscaping, dirt removal and construction of benches. Work on the project started during the summer and was completed just prior to school completion.

Chapter members saved the school over $5,000 had a contractor been hired to complete the project. Well over 1,600 man hours were spent in the preparation and construction of the project.

The members of the Dorman FFA Chapter are proud of their accomplishment and contribution. *(C. Gerald Moore, Advisor)* • • •

Weekly Service

Members of the Granton, Wisconsin, FFA recently held a rabies clinic in their area. In cooperation with the local veterinarians, the clinic vaccinated over 65 dogs and cats.

The next week they held a mastitis clinic and sold over 120 tubes of mastitis drugs at a reduced price to reduce the incidence of mastitis.

Then the next week they held a fire extinguisher day and had area fire extinguishers refilled for local citizens. *(Tim Parker, President)* • • •

Windy Touch Down

Neither rain, nor snow, nor tornado could stop the Waverly, Nebraska, Chapter from having their usual (well, maybe not quite so usual) monthly FFA meeting.

On June 12, 1984, the Waverly FFA Chapter began their meeting in the ag shop and ended up in the boy's locker room. About an hour into the meeting the tornado sirens blew and all 45 members headed for the locker room.

The meeting continued "down-under" and came to a close about one hour later. With the close of the meeting the members returned to the ag shop in knee-deep water and some members found they could not return home until morning because of the flooding and blocked roads about a quarter of a mile from school where the tornado touched down. *(Colleen Janak, Reporter)* • • •

A Message on the Wall

This project began as a representation of the agricultural community in Keytesville, Missouri, and the importance the Future Farmers of America plays in its future. The painting was designed, painted and mounted by an advanced art class. Of the four class members, two were FFA members who helped with determining the elements to be included.

The students tried to represent as many aspects of farming as possible leading from past to present methods. They chose Grant Wood's "American Gothic" couple to represent Americana. The lake containing their reflection is in the shape of Missouri. Fields were handled to show the different seasons. Pork, beef, pecans, tobacco and row

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information see pages 81-88 in the new FFA Supply Catalog. 1985 Calendars also feature the 1985 FFA promotional theme. This will help unite the chapter's promotional efforts of calendars, FFA Week and banquets.

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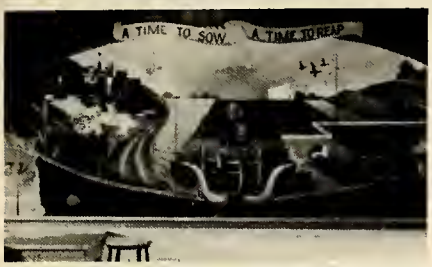

The painting is on display at the school for the whole community to see.

crops all lead in Chariton County's production. The hillside field represents the importance of conservation. The FFA member stands center stage and was planned to hold the center of attention. Remnants of our past as well as present are scattered throughout the design to help tie the units together.

After the design was perfected and transferred to masonite panels, the long project of painting began. Because of its rapid drying time and durability, acrylic paint was used and protected with a coat of varnish. The artists were Debbie Brand, Darin Byrd, plus Brian Littleton and Greg Neidholdt in FFA. • • •

Improvement Above All

The Colorado Association selected the Wiggins FFA Chapter for the most improved chapter award. The chapter's improvement projects and supplementary farm practices for students have increased over the past year. Participation at the state FFA convention and leadership training conferences have doubled.

The chapter also shows an improvement in judging contests and the number of proficiency applications submitted. The Wiggins Chapter received a $250 check and a plaque at Colorado State Convention held in Durango at the Fort Lewis College in June. *(R. Brent Young, Advisor)* • • •

Cajun Safety

The Larose-Cut Off FFA Chapter, associated with the South Lafourche, Louisiana, Chapter conducted a safety program consisting of an indepth study of preventing bodily injury from anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia is used by many sugar cane farmers of the area.

Other events included a driving-while-intoxicated program by State Trooper Gregory Whitney and a film on pesticide and on tractor safety. A hunter's safety program was established by Jerry McClain, a worker with the Louisiana Association of Wildlife and Fisheries. A hazard hunt was also held by agriculture students in their class. *(William Pellegrin, Secretary)* • • •

"Juniors" Help "Seniors"

The students of High School District 214-211 Horticulture program have been sponsoring horticulture therapy sessions at Americana Healthcare Center. The students are bussed to the center during class time and help the elderly residents to complete such projects as corsages and floral arrangements. The final project of the season consists of planting bedding plants in the courtyard.

The residents are encouraged to take part in the activities. When they do participate they experience a sense of achievement because of their own results. Working with the elderly people exposes the students to the occupation of horticulture therapy and gives them valuable experience if they plan a career in the field.

Not only the students benefit from the time spent with the residents, but the residents themselves enjoy having young people around and having the opportunity to create arrangements themselves. *(Kelly Haman, Reporter)* • • •

A Payoff in Points

The Oshkosh West, Wisconsin, FFA took the students that worked beyond the call of duty in the FFA on an educational field trip this summer.

The criteria used to select them was a point system which listed all of the activities possible in the FFA.

The chapter will award one cent per point toward a trip to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

Each member must have an SOE project and record book to go. • • •

A Family History Tree

The FFA story of a Pennsylvania family drew to a close on the evening of the annual parent-member banquet of the Cowanesque, Pennsylvania, Chapter. It all began in the fall of 1968 when Michael Ackley, the oldest of three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ackley enrolled in vo-ag at Cowanesque Valley High School in Westfield, Pennsylvania.

Mike joined the FFA with Mr. Edward Heyler as his chapter advisor and began a supervised occupational experience program that eventually led him to being named regional and State Star Farmer. Along the way, Mike showed many of his registered Holstein cattle at county, district and state junior dairy shows.

Phillip, the middle son, enrolled in vo-ag and joined the FFA in the fall of 1969. Phil quickly laid plans for an excellent supervised occupational experience program and began following the trail of Mike. He became involved in

(Continued on Page 72)

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 71)

parliamentary procedure and public speaking, which eventually led to being elected to the office of president of the student council. He could always be found at the dairy shows with his brother, a team which proved rather difficult to beat. He too was named the regional Star Farmer in quest of the state degree.

Mike and Phil continued their FFA membership beyond high school and continually showed a fine set of registered Holsteins. Then in the fall of 1976 the youngest of the three Ackleys arrived to begin his vo-ag/FFA career. Steven was no stranger to the program and started off very strongly. He was named the Star Greenhand and followed the next year by being awarded the Star Chapter Farmer honors. Steven had an excellent show cow and production cow and together they earned many recognitions. Steve earned the state degree in 1980 and in the fall of 1983 received the American Farmer degree. This was a first for the Cowanesque FFA Chapter.

A long FFA history is centered around the Ackley family from left to right: Phillip, June, Michael, Roy and Steven.

FFA was not really foreign to the Ackley family, as Roy was actively involved himself in FFA during his high school career. Roy's father was an agricultural teacher and an FFA advisor in the local high school. FFA, then, has been a part of the Ackleys for three generations. • • •

They Got The Beef

The Auburn, Alabama, University FFA Chapter has recently acquired the famous Gelbvieh bull Super Star. The FFA chapter is now in the process of making the public aware that they are the only FFA chapter who owns a nationally famous imported herd sire.

The animal was donated to the program by Super Star Cattle Company of Edmond, Oklahoma. The bull was the sire of the 1981 national grand champion bull.

Monies generated by the sale of semen from Super Star will be used for the education of future teachers of vocational agriculture. Anyone interested could contact Advisor Dr. James Drake at the university at (205) 826-5320. *(Jerry Chenault, President, Auburn University Collegiate Chapter)* • • •

A Bright Spot in the Room

The Imperial, Nebraska, Chapter decided their vo-ag department needed a facelift this past year. The room was a blue-green color and gave the room a dark appearance. It was decided to paint the room an off-white with blue and

"Is there one 'M' or two in 'lemon'?"

The finished mural is entitled "Dawn of a New Day." Members pictured with the mural are from left to right: Brian Haarberg, Carl Bartels, Susan Tomky and Doug Eskew.

gold stripes outlining the doors and running along the wall next to the floor. Chapter plaques were also arranged in order and hung on stained 1- x 4-inch boards.

This facelift brightened up the room considerably but something was missing. In the northwest corner of the room above the magazine rack was a large bare space. The idea of a mural was brought up. A preliminary sketch of a farm scene was made and then put into perspective by FFA member Robert Hartman. This drawing was then transferred to the wall and painted by FFA members Brian Haarberg, Carl Bartels, Susan Tomky and Doug Eskew. The mural adds much to the attractiveness of our classroom and is very fitting for a vo-ag department. *(Randy Vlasin, Advisor)* • • •

FACTS FOR ACTION
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With 133,000 chain saw accidents reported in 1982 by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, it's clear that this powerful tool cannot be taken for granted.

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1. Beware of kickback! Hold saw firmly in both hands with thumbs and fingers encircling the handles. Stand with weight evenly distributed between both feet and watch what is being cut.

a. Don't over reach.

b. Don't let the chain at the tip of the guide bar contact any obstruction.

c. Cut at high speeds.

d. Keep chain sharp and the chain properly tensioned.

2. Never operate the saw when you are fatigued.

3. Wear close-fitting clothing and protective equipment for the head, ears, eyes, feet and hands.

4. Switch off the engine before fueling, servicing or transporting the saw. To help prevent a fire, restart the chain saw at least ten feet from the fueling area. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

5. Be sure that the chain stops moving when the throttle control trigger is released.

6. Be alert for "spring back" when cutting a limb that is under tension.

7. Never start a felling cut until you have a clear work area, secure footing and planned escape path.

8. Never operate a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted or not completely and securely assembled. Don't operate a chain saw unless the chain stops when the engine idles.

9. Keep the guide bar, chain, chain brake, muffler and other saw components maintained to the specifications listed in the saw owner's manual. • • •

ACTION LINES ➤ ➤ ➤

- Chapter members wear FFA caps and sit together at football games. Support the home team.
- Fix the bleachers at the ball park.
- Clean the statue in the town square.
- How about a new FFA pocket knife for yourself?
- Have you talked anybody into signing up for vo-ag and FFA?
- Organize a soccer game at noon.
- Carve a jack-o-lantern for senior citizens.
- Gather bittersweet, Indian corn, gourds and the like to sell (or give away).
- Learn to operate the video equipment.
- Organize wildlife refuge spots.
- Collect unwanted or excess garden vegetables for the needy.
- Invite the student council president to an FFA meeting.
- Subscribe to *The National FUTURE FARMER* for the mayor.
- Offer to host an ag program for local civic groups. With emphasis on where your food comes from.
- Buy a bushel of apples for the principal's office.
- Barter or trade members skills for jobs needed by chapter, i.e., mowing yard for a fancy decorated cake to serve.

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The Joke Page

A city kid, watching a cow being milked asked, *"Why does the cow look so happy?"*

"She's a baseball fan," the farmer explained. *"She likes the yanks!"*

Delvin Huber
East Earl, Pennsylvania

Mr. Baird paced back and forth in the doctor's waiting room while his wife underwent a complete physical examination inside. Finally the doctor opened the door and summoned the husband. *"To be perfectly blunt, Mr. Baird,"* he said gravely, *"I don't like the looks of your wife."*

"Neither do I," Baird responded, *"but she's great with the kids."*

Jennifer Jefferson
Roseburg, Oregon

"There are two books that influence me the most, my mother's cookbook and my father's checkbook."

You know how fat she is? Well, when she put a yellow dress on, 32 kids tried to board her.

Jose Salinas
Roma, Texas

Q: What's the cause of dry skin?
A: Towels.

Denise Boyett
Webster, Florida

One night there were two bloodhounds lying in front of an old shack where some teenagers were having a party. The teenagers were listening to a record player, jumping around on the porch and in the yard.

One of the bloodhounds raised up and said, *"You know, if we acted like that, they'd worm us!"*

Lisa Strother
Pitkin, Louisiana

"It's a confusing world," said a high school senior. *"Half of the adults tell me to find myself and the other half tells me to get lost."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

A sign in the flower shop read: *"Say it with flowers."* A man entered and ordered a single red rose. *"Only one?"* asked the florist.

"Only one," the man said. *"I'm a man of few words."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Kay: *"What did the police do when 200 hares escaped from the rabbit farm?"*

Jay: *"I don't know."*

Kay: *"They combed the area."*

Jonathan Stanger
Christiansburg, Virginia

Man: *"What do you charge for funeral notices in your paper?"*

Clerk: *"Two dollars an inch."*

Man: *"Holy mackeral! My uncle was six feet, four!"*

Chris Schrecongost
Freeport, Pennsylvania

Sign in a music store window: *"Guitars for sale, cheap. No strings attached.*

Tony Rosby
Harmony, North Carolina

All the pigeons had left the nest and learned to fly but one. The mother pigeon said, *"Son, if you don't learn to fly, I'll tow you along behind me."*

"No," said the little pigeon. *"I'll learn. I don't want to be pigeon-towed!"*

Karen Butterworth
Crosby, Texas

Phil: *"Aren't you warm doing your painting all bundled up like that?"*

Bill: *"Well, it says right on the can to be sure and put on three coats."*

Lara Knoop
Winlock, Washington

Two cowboys were talking. One said, *"My name is Tex."*

The other one questioned, *"Are you from Texas?"*

One said: *"Nope; I'm from Louisiana, but who wants to be called Louise?"*

S. P. Tomaszewski
Houston, Texas

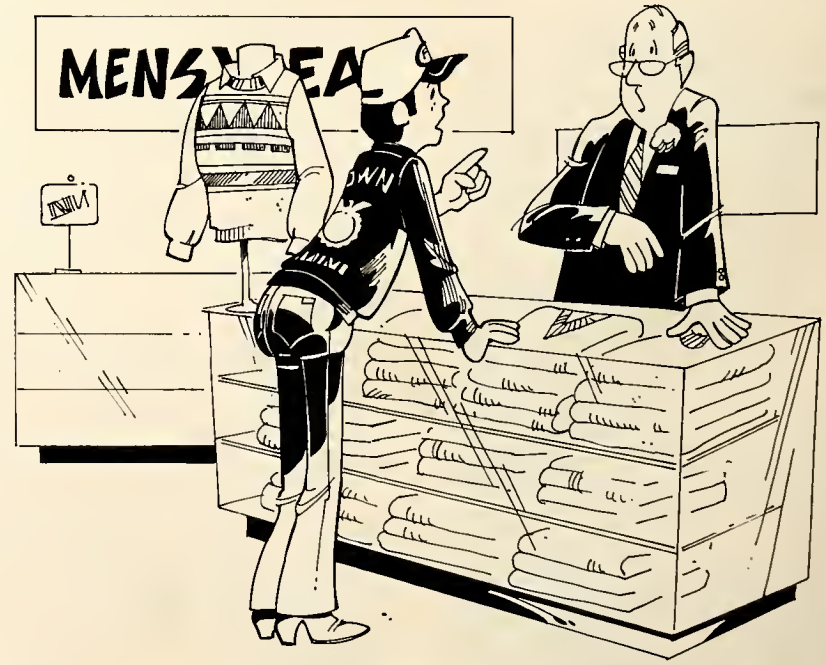
Once there was a fat lady who had to do certain exercises. One day when she went to see her doctor, she said, *"Doctor, doctor, I touched the floor without bending my knees."*

Her doctor asked, *"How'd you do it?"*

She answered, *"I fell out of bed!"*

Peggy Hemstreet
Albion, Pensylvania

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Do you have something in 'John Deere' green?

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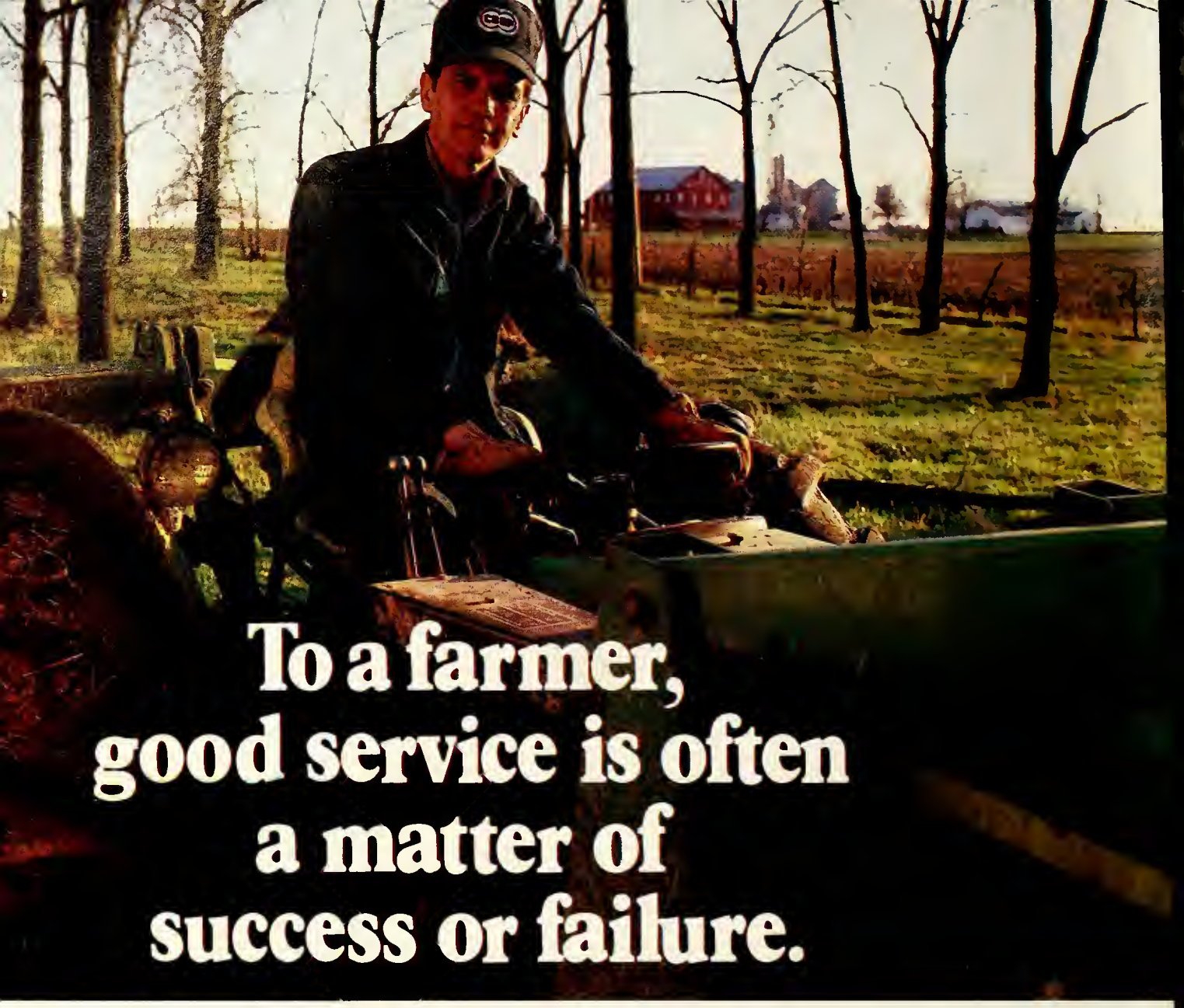

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